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First Hawaiian Bank donates \$7,295 to the Northern Marianas Trades Institute.

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Oil Crisis

U.S. and global economies face a new danger: Rocketing oil prices.

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Holed Up

The scope of Moammar Gadhafi's control is whittling away.

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2 bets for NMC president back out

» Five remaining applicants are from off-island

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Two of the top seven candidates that were endorsed to the Northern Marianas College presidential search committee have withdrawn their applications, leaving only five applicants vying to fill the role of college president.

Saipan Tribune learned that one female and one male applicant officially notified the committee about their decision to back out from the search—one

prior to the scheduled interview set by the panel, while the other failed to appear during the scheduled interview this

See 2 BETS on Page 4

NMI braces for likely impact of possible federal govt shutdown

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER



Inos

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said yesterday he is forming a team in a day or two that will assess the impact on the CNMI in the event that the federal government partially shuts down if the White

House and Congress fail to reach an agreement on a federal spending bill by March 4.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said the team would look into the possibility, for example, of any impact on the operations of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. See SHUTDOWN on Page 4



More cuts in monthly allotment of govt agencies

» Administration eyes 'transition' from \$132M to \$120M budget

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Government departments and agencies will soon receive cuts in their monthly allotment for operations and personnel costs to be able to live within the \$132 million budget for fiscal year 2011 and

At the end of the day, we need to take out \$10 million, \$12 million for the year.

—Acting governor Eloy S. Inos

to help prepare for an estimated \$120 million budget in fiscal year 2012, acting governor Eloy S. Inos said yesterday.

The allotment cut could be 9 percent for some, while for others it could be more or less than that, depending on the agencies' functions and constitutional

mandates.

Inos said there will be a "transition" period leading to a \$120 million estimated budget.

At this point, it will not be an across-the-board nor proportional cut in allot-

See MORE CUTS on Page 4

'MARCH FOR PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP'

Nonresident workers, their families, and supporters march peacefully late yesterday afternoon from Kilili Beach to the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, where the Senate Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies held a public hearing last night on a draft recommendation to the U.S. Congress on the status of long-term nonresident workers in the CNMI. The marchers, wearing green ribbons and waving small green flags, said they want "green card" or pathway to U.S. citizenship.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

PSS distributes 974 laptops to Hopwood, private schools. PAGE 3
Fitial meets with USCIS director Mayorkas in DC. PAGE 15

Local

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LOLLIPOPS

Drunk man allegedly assaults guard

Police arrested a 20-year-old man who, while allegedly intoxicated, assaulted a security guard behind Star Sands Plaza in Garapan Wednesday before dawn.

John V. James was arrested for assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and minor consuming liquor. Bail was initially set at \$1,500 cash. He was set to appear for a bail hearing yesterday afternoon.

Preliminary police investigation showed that security guard Bimal Chandra Sudradhar was at his post behind the Star Sands Plaza building when he saw James and a teenage girl drinking alcoholic beverages with two other males across the road

from his location at 4am.

When Sudradhar left his post to throw trash in the bin, James allegedly threw a beer can at a glass window of a building across the guard. James then allegedly confronted the security guard and pushed him hard thrice in the chest.

The guard dialed 911 on his phone, but the female teenager approached and asked him not to mind James and the other guys because they were all drunk.

James ran off before the police arrived. He, was, however,

arrested south of the Garapan Elementary School's fence.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that the female teenager approached the officer and asked him not to arrest her companion. Police smelled alcohol on the girl's breath.

Aldan said that when the officer asked how old she was, she told the officer she was 18 when in fact she is only 14.

The report did not mention whether the girl was also arrested for minor consuming alcohol. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

TO AVOID SPECIAL FAVORS

'No more waiver of interest on debts owed to CPA, CDA, DPL'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) wants to disallow the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Commonwealth Development Authority, and the Department of Public Lands from waiving interests on debts owed them, saying that this practice is "unfair" because it gives "preferential treatment" or "special favors" to connected entities.

"When interest is forgiven, it costs Commonwealth taxpayers' money," Ayuyu said as he pre-filed Senate Bill 17-60.

The Office of the Public Auditor earlier wrote to Ayuyu as chairman of the Rota Legislative Delegation, about a CPA lessee on Rota that was given a "settlement discount" of \$97,482.68 involving an original debt of \$340,481.36.

Because of the waiver of interest on the original debt, the lessee, Terminal and Transfer

Co. Inc, or RT&T, will pay only \$245,831.20. Despite the interest-free debt, RT&T has been behind in its monthly payments, OPA said.

RT&T is reportedly partly owned by former senator Paterno Hocog, the son of Joe Lifofoi, whose reappointment to the CPA board was confirmed by the full Senate on Tuesday.

Ayuyu, in his SB 17-60, said CPA, CDA, and DPL give "interest exemptions" to some of their business partners that owe them money.

"These practices are unfair, and suggest some companies receive preferential treatment by government agencies on the monies they owe. In a small community like the CNMI, these practices also suggest the well connected receive special favors. We will disallow any firm that owes CPA, CDA, and DPL money from receiving interest forgiveness," the bill reads.

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PSS distributes 974 laptops to Hopwood, private schools

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System gave away nearly a thousand brand new laptops yesterday to seventh graders of Hopwood Junior High School and private schools.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan and Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero led the distribution of 598 Latitude 2110 Dell netbooks to Hopwood's seventh graders.

An additional 376 units were picked up by representatives of private schools at the Lower Base office for their students.

Yesterday's distribution at Hopwood was graced by acting governor Eloy S. Inos, who praised the efforts of education officials in implementing the "One-Laptop-Per-Child" project initiated this school year.

Last September, 5,200 units were distributed to junior and high school students in public schools. These were procured using a portion of the state fiscal stabilization fund.

Hopwood's seventh grader Maica Aniana said she was excited to go to school yesterday

because she would finally get the laptop she had been waiting for so long. She vowed to use it to advance her learning in school.

"With this new laptop, it would be easy for me to take down notes. Also, I will no longer ask for my brother to use his laptop. I enjoy reading and searching on the Internet, and I am sure this will help me a lot in my homework and projects," said Aniana.

According to Joseph Torres, PSS technology communication network coordinator, the new laptops are virus-free, equipped with bar codes for accountability, and will block certain websites for the students' safety. They are also equipped with camera, wi-fi, and touch screen. Each unit costs \$399.

Board member Guerrero said the laptops will provide students access to modern information technology.

Seniors who are given the laptops will eventually own the units after they graduate; seventh and eighth graders will carry their units to high school.

Guerrero said the board will next look for means on how to provide laptops to incoming

seventh and eighth graders next school year.

"We will figure out how we can provide the new seventh and eighth graders the same technology because we know that it will greatly help them in their studies," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Guerrero said he is proud that PSS, compared to other U.S. states and territories like Guam, was able to provide its students this technology.

"It [laptop distribution] hasn't happen yet in the states and Guam. The excitement about it is that we're seeing our kids, even living in shanty places, doing something with their laptops," he said.

He added that PSS is on track to use up all its SFSF funds, which expire on Sept. 30 this year.

The One-Laptop-Per-Child Project was a brainchild of Craig Garrison and Peter Le'au, former school administrators of Saipan Southern High School. The system decided to expand it to other schools, including private schools.

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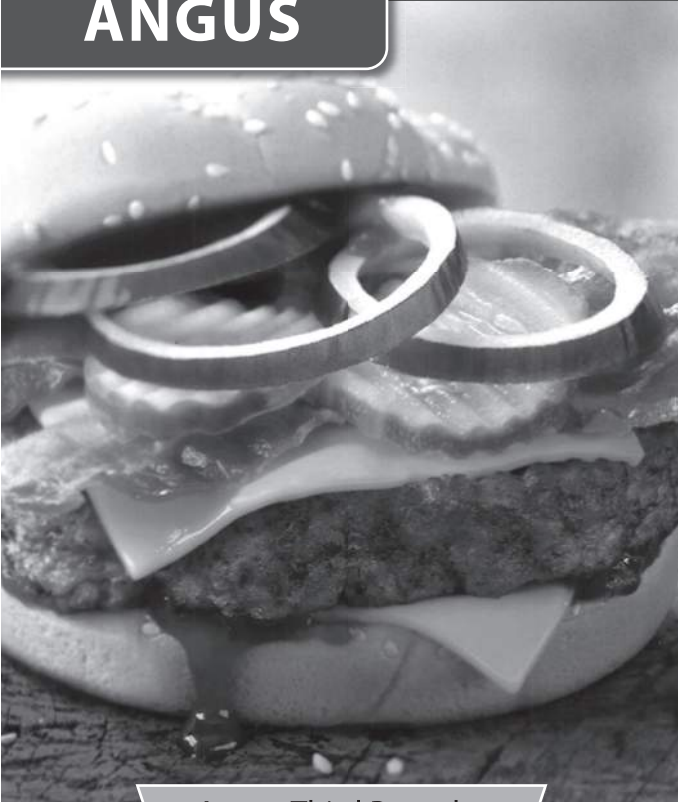
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ACCREDITATION, OTHER NMC CONCERNS

'Key to solving NMC issues is working in unison'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

With accreditation concerns and other issues besetting the only community college on island, acting governor Eloy Inos believes that unity among the Board of Regents and management is key to achieving the desired goals and objectives for the Northern Marianas College.

"We're not pointing fingers here... but things came to a new height during the previous administrations of NMC [both the presidency and chair]. I think the key is to make sure they work together in unison to try to achieve the

objectives and mission of the college—no matter who, no matter what," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

With former judge Juan Lizama leading the board, the administration is hopeful that things will start looking up for the college, particularly its accreditation status, which is now at its most critical and must be addressed by March 15.

"They need to work together and they should think of what's the primary concern here: the benefit of students. NMC should do the right thing not only because it wants to be accredited but to satisfy the needs of students. Accreditation should be the end product

of this right thing—prepare and equip our young citizens with the academic and skills they could use in entering the real world," he said.

NMC was slapped with continued show-cause sanction after it failed to address numerous recommendations and concerns of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Among these are alleged political interference at the college—a concern that the administration believes should be viewed differently by the commission.

"I take a different view on that because the government [administration and Legislature] get involve or ascer-

tain policies at NMC because it's the nature of the thing. They're appointed folks and the college is part of the big pie—meaning it gets appropriations," said Inos.

There are two vacancies on the Board of Regents following the resignation of Maria Paz Younis and the continuing vacancy left by former regent Charles Cepeda.

Inos revealed that a new appointment will be made soon to help in the board's governance.

"We've got some candidates for the regents...and we're not shy in making the appointments. We will come up with a new one soon," he disclosed.

SHUTDOWN

From Page 1

tion or the Transportation Security Administration, which are guarding the borders.

But he said in the case of a shutdown, there will be exemptions and these may include border patrols and other critical services such as those on national security and public health.

"If there's no continuing resolution...by March [4], then they're going to shut down and that will affect us here to a large extent because of... maybe grants will probably continue but the... administrative grants directly paid out of that grant funds may be affected. ...We don't know, we just hope they will be able to get some relief for the balance of the fiscal year," Inos said yesterday.

He said the Fitial administration hopes that a federal shutdown will not happen.

"That's what we had hoped last year [in the CNMI] in October," Inos said.

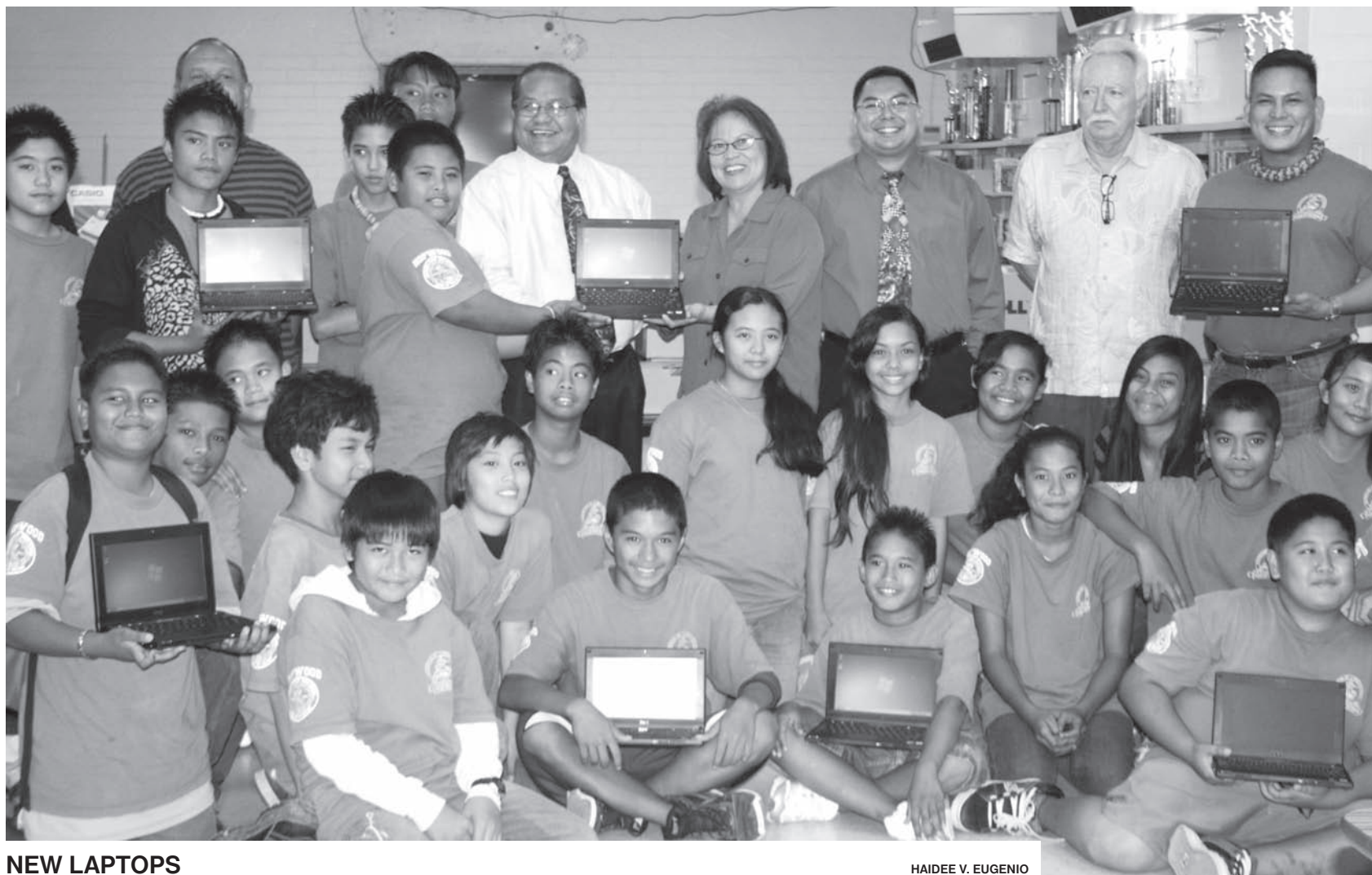
The CNMI government partially shut down in early October, temporarily leaving over 1,400 employees without jobs because of the Legislature's failure to pass a budget before the start of fiscal year 2011.

"But for the CNMI, for our purposes here, I think we've got some basic understanding. It was a painful lesson last year and so I don't think we're going to do a repeat this year but that's not us, that's the Legislature," he added.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's office also said earlier that unless the U.S. Congress passes another stopgap measure, the CNMI would be hit by a "crippling" federal shutdown.

His office cited, for example, that the National Park Service would close American Memorial Park, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Interior Department employees would be sent home, the U.S. District Court on Saipan would cease operations, and would affect TSA workers at the airports and U.S. Customs and Immigration Service workers.

When the federal government partially shut down in 1995 to 1996, the government closed 368 National Park Service sites, along with national museums and monuments, and cleanup at toxic waste sites stopped.



NEW LAPTOPS

Acting governor Eloy Inos and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan hold up a laptop, one of 598 Latitude 2110 Dell netbooks distributed yesterday to seventh graders of Hopwood Junior High School and private schools. The two are joined here by Hopwood students and other Public School System officials.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

See story on Page 3

MORE CUTS

From Page 1

ments among agencies.

"For example, we need to make sure that we fund hundred percent agencies that have constitutionally mandated salaries. We can't cut that," Inos said in an interview at Hopwood Junior High School yesterday morning.

He said there will be "disproportionate funding adjustments."

"But at the end of the day, we need to take out \$10 million, \$12 million for the year and that means that while agencies overall will have less than 9 percent, other departments will have to make up the difference so there's more than 9 percent," he added.

The former Finance secretary said at this point, it's still the discretion of expenditure authorities.

With the current \$132 million budget, the monthly allotment is some \$11 million.

But because actual revenues were

less than projected—just like in the first quarter when it was short by \$6 million—the government has to adjust its spending.

One way to do this is further reduce the monthly allotment. The fiscal year 2012 budget law allows the distribution of monthly allotments, instead of the quarterly allotments in prior years.

More belt-tightening

Inos said yesterday that the 16-hour work cuts per pay period will continue. At this point, there's no telling whether this could be increased or decreased in the next fiscal year.

He said there have been many requests for exemptions from the 16-hour work cuts since October 2010, and this has been putting a strain on available resources.

Inos reiterated that laying off government employees will be a last resort, but there will certainly be restructuring in some agencies just like the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, which was a subject

of an independent desk audit.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said the House Ways and Means Committee will review and work on the 2012 budget as soon as the Fitial administration submits it on or before the April 1 deadline.

He said his committee will do away with budget hearings wherein agencies ask the Legislature to give them more than what the administration is proposing.

Inos said the administration and the Legislature have an understanding that they won't allow a repeat of the partial government shutdown when the Legislature failed to pass a timely budget for fiscal year 2011.

Only about five agencies have so far submitted their budget to the Fitial administration, with only a few days left before the deadline of Feb. 28.

The Fitial administration has until April 1 to submit a budget plan to the Legislature.

Inos said the Fitial administration will be able to meet the April 1 deadline "as it always does."

2 BETS

From Page 1

week. One of the two cited acceptance of a job with another institution, while the other cited personal reasons.

Saipan Tribune learned that all five remaining candidates for the position—three males and two females—are from off-island, with master's degrees in various fields. They will be interviewed by the panel via Skype.

The search panel did an extensive interview of one candidate on Tuesday, while two went through the same process on Wednesday. Two applicants are slated to appear before the panel today.

The Association of Community College Trustees, which did the initial screening of all applicants, received 31 applications for the NMC presidency by the Jan. 15 deadline.

Of the 31 applicants, seven got the highest ratings based on ACCT's standards, criteria, and qualifications. Their applications were endorsed to the search panel for interviews.

Today, the search panel is scheduled to finish the interview process. It will then come up with its final selection

of the top 2 candidates next week and is expected to endorse to the Board of Regents the final two candidates by Wednesday.

NMC has had no permanent chief executive officer since January 2010, after the board suspended and later terminated former president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. She is now suing the board and NMC for unlawful termination.

NMC is currently on continued show-cause status, imposed by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in January. Among the 10 issued the college has failed to address is the lack of a sitting president. NMC has had seven presidents in the last 10 years.

The college has only until March 15 to submit its continued show-cause report justifying why its accreditation should not be revoked.

Lorraine T. Cabrera currently sits as interim president.

The current search is actually a second stab at finding a president for NMC. The first search failed because the top candidate they chose, Dr. Betzy Boce, withdrew her application to accept the presidency at the College of the Bahamas.

Inos hints lesser budget for PSS in FY2012

»BOE to push \$36M budget for public schools

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Board of Education will endorse a \$36 million budget for the operations of the Public School System next fiscal year—an amount the administration described yesterday as unrealistic because of projected low collections and resources.

BOE member Herman T. Guerrero, who chairs the fiscal and personnel affairs committee, said the total was adopted during a recent committee meeting and is ready for board action at the next meeting.

The \$36 million proposal will mostly cover the salaries of personnel; a small portion will be used for schools' all other expenses, including utilities and employer's contribution to the Retirement Fund.

But this early, acting governor Eloy S. Inos described the proposed amount as a "big slice of the small pie" that's expected next fiscal year. The government projects revenue to reach just \$120 million in 2012.

"We're talking about \$36 million against the projected \$120

million revenues. Percentage-wise, it's much more. But again, we need to know what comprises that figure because we do acknowledge that in 2012 they won't have the [stimulus funds] to be able to carry on forward in the next fiscal...that's one justification, but we need to carefully take a look at it," said Inos.

Inos pointed out that PSS will get \$31 million from the government's budget of \$132 million this fiscal year and hopes the Education Board will comprehensively discuss the proposed amount before submitting it to the administration.

He admitted, though, that failure to fund services at PSS could result in a rise in juvenile delinquencies.

"PSS is the highest priority that we need to fund. We do acknowledge that if we don't fund the schools, we may have end up expanding our juvenile detention unit and increase the services that have to deal with the closure of schools," he said.

Guerrero conceded that they have already been informed about the expected reduction in government resources next fis-

cal year and acknowledged that this may result in a lower budget for PSS.

"This is the reason why we're instructing the commissioner and the staff to see what we need to do to cope with this anticipated reduction in government resources...because this will mean also a reduction in PSS' budget," he said, adding that a contingency plan must be put in place to address the problem.

PSS is home to nearly 11,000 students from kindergarten to 12th grade. It has over a thousand employees, majority of whom are paid under the local budget.

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Satake High students visit Kagman High

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Five students and two teachers from Satake High School located in Ibaraki Prefecture in Japan arrived last Feb. 22 for another cultural exchange program involving home stay with local students' families.

Misaki Goto, 17, is hosted by Jodhi Mae Norita, 19; Risa Ogi, 16, by Rosemary Yamada, 18; Saki Akutsu, 17, by Ritchell Jane Dela Cruz; Yuji Nishino, 17, by Christopher Mendiola; and Kosaku Akino, 17, by Maru Christopher Alden, 18.

The Japanese students' tour

was arranged by Pacific Development, Inc.

Assistant manager Hiroko Tajima said this is the third time that students from Satake High School arrived on island for the cultural exchange program.

The students from the first two visits stayed with students from Northern Marianas College.

This year, Satake High School decided to visit Kagman High School, Tajima said.

"I think this style is better because our students have more chance to communicate with local students and get closer," said accompanying teacher Takao Inaba.

Another teacher, Akira Oshima, said he was impressed with the beauty of Saipan, especially its stunning oceans.

Tajima said all the students went to school together on the first and second day. Today, they will go sightseeing on the northern part of the island and learn about the history of Saipan in the morning then go boat snorkeling in the afternoon.

On Saturday, the Japanese students will experience local culture through banana painting, weaving, bead making, mwar mwar making, coconut oil making, and candle making.

"The Japanese students only



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students from Satake High School are flanked by their counterparts from Kagman High School yesterday. The visiting Japanese students arrived on Saipan on Feb. 22 to take part in a cultural exchange program. They are scheduled to depart on Saturday afternoon.

have two days of home stay with the local students but they all got along well. They will go

sightseeing and enjoy nature. It's a big success," Tajima told *Saipan Tribune*.

The visiting students are scheduled to depart Saipan tomorrow afternoon.

Finance files tax lien on 2 more companies for allegedly failing to pay \$70K in taxes

The Department of Finance-Division of Revenue and Taxation has filed separate notice of tax lien against two more companies who allegedly failed to pay Business Gross Revenue Tax and withholding tax in the total amount of \$70,682.87.

Finance, through its collection and remittance branch manager Richard F. Santos, filed on Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI the

notice of tax lien against Guam-based Suwaso Corp. and the Alto Saipan International Corp.

According to Santos in court documents, Suwaso Corp.'s total unpaid balance assessment amounts to \$53,658.83, while Alto Saipan owes the government a total of \$17,024.04.

Saipan Tribune yesterday contacted Coral Ocean Point, which is owned by Suwaso Corp., but the manager said their company is based on Saipan and not in Guam. The manager added that they don't owe tax to the government.

Alto Saipan is not listed in the phone directory.

Santos said Suwaso Corp. failed to pay Business Gross Revenue Tax in 2008 and 2010.

Santos said Alto Saipan failed to pay withholding tax in from 2000 to 2002; BGRT in 2001

and 2002; and BGRT for manufacturing and wholesaling from 2000 to 2002.

Santos stated that notice is given that taxes (including interest and penalties) have been assessed against taxpayers Suwaso Corp. and Alto Saipan.

Santos said demand for payment of this liability has been made, but it remains unpaid.

"Therefore, there is a lien in favor of the CNMI on all property and rights to property belonging to the taxpayer(s) for the amount of these taxes and any additional penalties, interest, and costs that may accrue," Santos said in the notice.

Finance recently also filed separate tax lien against a law-maker and eight companies for allegedly failing to pay BGRT, withholding tax, and bar tax. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Investor files amended suit vs Quichocho, his wife, law firm

» Lawyer accused of racketeering, money laundering, legal malpractice, other claims

An investor filed yesterday in federal court a second amended lawsuit against attorney Ramon K. Quichocho and his wife for allegedly engaging in racketeering activity and money laundering.

Jung Ja Kim, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, sued Ramon Quichocho and his wife, Frances Quichocho, the Quichocho law firm, and the couple's company, Karissa LLC, for violation of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, RICO.

Kim is suing Quichocho and his law firm for legal malpractice-professional negligence and breach of fiduciary duty. She is

also suing the Quichocho couple and the law office, for breach of lease agreements. In addition, Kim is suing the Quichocho couple for conversion, fraud, and constructive trust.

Kim is seeking damages, court costs, and attorney's fees and wants the U.S. District Court for the NMI to establish that all assets, benefits, monies, or assets received by the Quichocho from Latte Stone LLC and Tan Dingo LLC were held in trust for her benefit.

Kim's lawsuit alleged that the defendants defrauded her of two of her poker businesses under the guise of protecting her from litigation by her former husband and his family and helping her through a period of depression.

Kim alleged that the Quichocho directly conducted and participated in the management of the affairs of Latte Stone and Tan Dingo through a pattern of racketeering activity.

In the money laundering claim, Kim alleged that the Quichocho, through Latte Stone, regularly deposited the money generated by Latte Stone, into the Bank of Guam. The deposited money, Thompson said, was the proceeds of the Quichocho's prior acts of wire fraud that victimized Kim.

"By depositing funds into the Bank of Guam account in the name of Latte Stone, the Quichocho were able to conceal or disguise the source and ownership of the funds generated by CNMI licensed poker machines that the Quichocho wrongfully acquired from Ms. Kim through wire fraud," Thompson said.

Kim had originally sued the Quichocho asserting nine causes of action. In April 2010, the federal court dismissed three of Kim's nine claims. The judge, however, allowed her to amend her complaint.

Kim later filed an amended complaint asserting the same nine causes of action against the Quichocho. The defendants, through counsel Michael Dotts, filed a motion to dismiss the four claims relating to RICO and common-law fraud.

The federal court recently ruled that Kim has cured the prior deficiencies in some of the claims in her lawsuit.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett denied the motion to dismiss filed by Quichocho as to Kim's two claims pursuant to RICO. Bennett also denied Quichocho couple's motion to dismiss Kim's common-law fraud claim against them.

The judge, however, granted the couple's motion to dismiss the common-law fraud claim against Quichocho's law office, and their company, Karissa LLC.

Bennett granted the Quichocho couple's motion to dismiss Kim's RICO conspiracy claim against the defendants. The judge, however, allowed Kim to amend the claim within 30 days of the order. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

High court denies MRC petition for rehearing

The Supreme Court issued a unanimous order Wednesday denying a petition for rehearing filed by Marine Revitalization Corp. in *Marine Revitalization Corp. v. Department of Land and Natural Resources*.

Marine Revitalization had filed a petition for rehearing arguing that the Supreme Court could not consider whether the government—in this case the Department of Land and Natural Resources—could be held

liable for post-judgment interest because the department had not appealed this award, and additionally, that if the court could raise and consider the interest issue on its own that it misapplied the law to the facts of the case. While an appellate court will generally only decide issues that the parties bring to its attention, the CNMI Supreme Court possesses the authority to correct clear errors of law that do no turn on disputed facts.

In this case, the Superior Court awarded Marine Revitalization post-judgment interest on the money the Commonwealth owed it. Under the laws of the Commonwealth, the government is not liable for post-judgment interest unless it explicitly consents to such interest in a contract or through a statute. Here, the contract between Marine Revitalization and the department did not provide for post-judgment interest, and there was no statute

that made the government liable for interest on this judgment. As a result, the Superior Court erroneously awarded interest, which the Supreme Court properly corrected on appeal.

The Supreme Court's full order denying the petition for rehearing is *Marine Revitalization Corp., et al. v. Department of Land and Natural Resources*, 2011 MP 2, and can be found at <http://www.justice.gov.mp/>. *(CNMI Supreme Court)*

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 25, 1999

Bill gives reprieve on payback for scholars

Senators yesterday passed a bill seeking to relieve financial liability from government scholars who could not meet their obligations to the CNMI following failure to find employment in the public sector due to ongoing austerity measures of the Tenorio administration, including hiring freeze. Senate Floor leader Pete P. Reyes said the measure should be put in place to absolve returning college students from the required government service as set forth in the conditions for receiving local grants, loans or scholarships. He said he had met with three students recently graduated who could not get employed as teachers for the Public School System, but were concerned about meeting their obligations to the CNMI government.

NMC adequately funded—Hofschneider

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, chair of the House committee on Health, Education and Welfare, yesterday fired his most stinging attack so far against the Northern Marianas College over expenditures exceeding the spending level appropriated by the legislature to the institution. NMC President Agnes M. McPhetres also admitted for the first time of going beyond the budgeted amount in implementing programs, saying they have relied on the "commitment" of government officials promising to infuse more funds into the state college despite the tight financial shape of the CNMI. The committee took NMC to task for the reported current budget deficit in its vocational education program which, under the appropriation measure approved by the legislature, received about \$1.3 million for fiscal year 1999.

Feb. 25, 2000

MVA pushes for China market

Marianas Visitors Authority Board Chair Dave M. Sablan has asked Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to adopt the procedure followed by the U.S. Consulate in China in processing the travel documents of Chinese nationals who travel to the United States. In a move to facilitate the entry of selected Chinese nationals on the island, Mr. Sablan recommended to the governor to allow the initial entry of visitors from Guangzhou on a trial basis. A team of MVA officials led by MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio, Marketing Manager Norman Berg and Mr. Sablan went to Hong Kong where they met with tour operators from the former British colony and Guangzhou.

SGMA: Keep cap on factories

As part of testimony given during Tuesday's public hearing on the Omnibus Labor and Business Reform Act of 2000, the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association said it opposes the lifting of a cap on the number of garment factories on the island. Speaking before the House Committee on Trade and Tourism regarding HB 12-039, SGMA Executive Director Richard A. Pierce said his organization's board of directors agreed with most of the bill, with the exception of lifting the garment license moratorium. "We don't want to be viewed as conspiring or assisting in anti-trust activity but we have not identified any of our factories that are interested in increasing our workforce or acquiring additional licenses at this time," said Mr. Pierce.

Feb. 25, 2002

CSC to administration: Keep off!

Any personnel action matter is within the authority of the Civil Service Commission and any directive regarding this would be an infringement on the commission's powers. This was stressed by commission members during a board meeting last Friday, in reaction to one of the instructions contained in Directive No. 215 that Gov. Juan N. Babauta issued on January 31 this year. Insisting that a directive cannot supersede a promulgation, the commission will be writing to the Governor for a clarification of the provision on personnel actions contained in Directive No. 215.

Retirement Fund opposes 2 bills

House Bills 13-7 and 13-28 may both be well-intentioned but the Board of Trustees of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund foresees problems if both bills pass through the legislative mill. In light of this, the board has authorized acting Administrator Takeo George to write two separate letters to the 13th House of Representatives opposing the passage of both measures. During Friday's board meeting—the Fund's first since Gov. Juan N. Babauta rejected the courtesy resignation of four board members—all five trustees present agreed to oppose the passage of the two measures, saying they anticipate problems in enforcement.



TRASH WARRIORS

Staff of the Department of Public Health and members of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance pose for a group photo after a beach cleanup held Saturday morning at the Civic Center beach areas. Over 20 volunteers from DPH and MINA were present.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mafnas' grandkids agree to dismiss lawsuit vs Hawaii law firm, attorney

The grandchildren of the late Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas have agreed to dismiss their lawsuit against a Hawaii-based law firm following a settlement.

Jess Mafnas, Franklin Mafnas, Britney Mafnas, and Blas Mafnas Jr. and the law firm of Cronin, Fried, Sekina, Kekina, and Fairbanks; and Hawaii attorney Allen K. Williams, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday to dismiss the complaint with

prejudice, which means the case cannot be re-opened.

It was learned that the grandchildren and the Cronin law firm and Williams reached a settlement during a conference on Jan. 27, 2011 in Sioux City, Iowa.

On Tuesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Mark W. Bennett gave the parties until March 14, 2011, to file the final settlement and dismissal papers.

The Mafnas grandchildren had sued Guam-based attorney Peter F. Perez and the Cronin law firm and attorney Williams, for allegedly failing to give them anything from the \$1.9 million settlement in a previous lawsuit against the estate of the late business tycoon Larry Lee Hillblom. Last year, Perez settled with the grandchildren for \$70,000.

Jesus Mafnas Sr. was killed

in 1995 in a crash while aboard an aircraft being piloted by Hillblom. The then minor Mafnas grandchildren pursued a wrongful death lawsuit in federal court against the Hillblom estate.

Perez, Williams, and the Cronin law firm acted as counsels for the Mafnas grandchildren. The lawsuit was settled, but the grandchildren claimed they did not get any compensation. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Libyans dying for freedom

With inspiring determination and grit, Libyan citizens literally are putting their lives on the line in an effort to topple their longtime dictator, Moammar Gadhafi.

While Gadhafi, 69, came to power in a bloodless coup four decades ago, he turned against his own countrymen with a vengeance over the last week—culminating in the slaughter of hundreds of civilians over the weekend and continuing into this week.

The chilling prediction by one of Gadhafi's sons that the streets would "run with blood" reportedly became all too true within moments of the speech Monday, as armed government mercenaries turned automatic weapons on crowds of protesters.

Further reports of Gadhafi loyalists commandeering ambulances to cruise the streets of Tripoli and shoot civilians show just how much the situation has unraveled. Only in its savagery, though, does the Libyan turmoil differ from the heroic struggles of Egypt's people—300 of whom died in the process of toppling President Hosni Mubarak.

Mubarak's fall fanned the desire for freedom across the Middle East. But the push for more democratic institutions won't be easy, as evidenced by Libya's suffering. It's vital, therefore, that U.S. officials support the drive for democracy in any way possible.

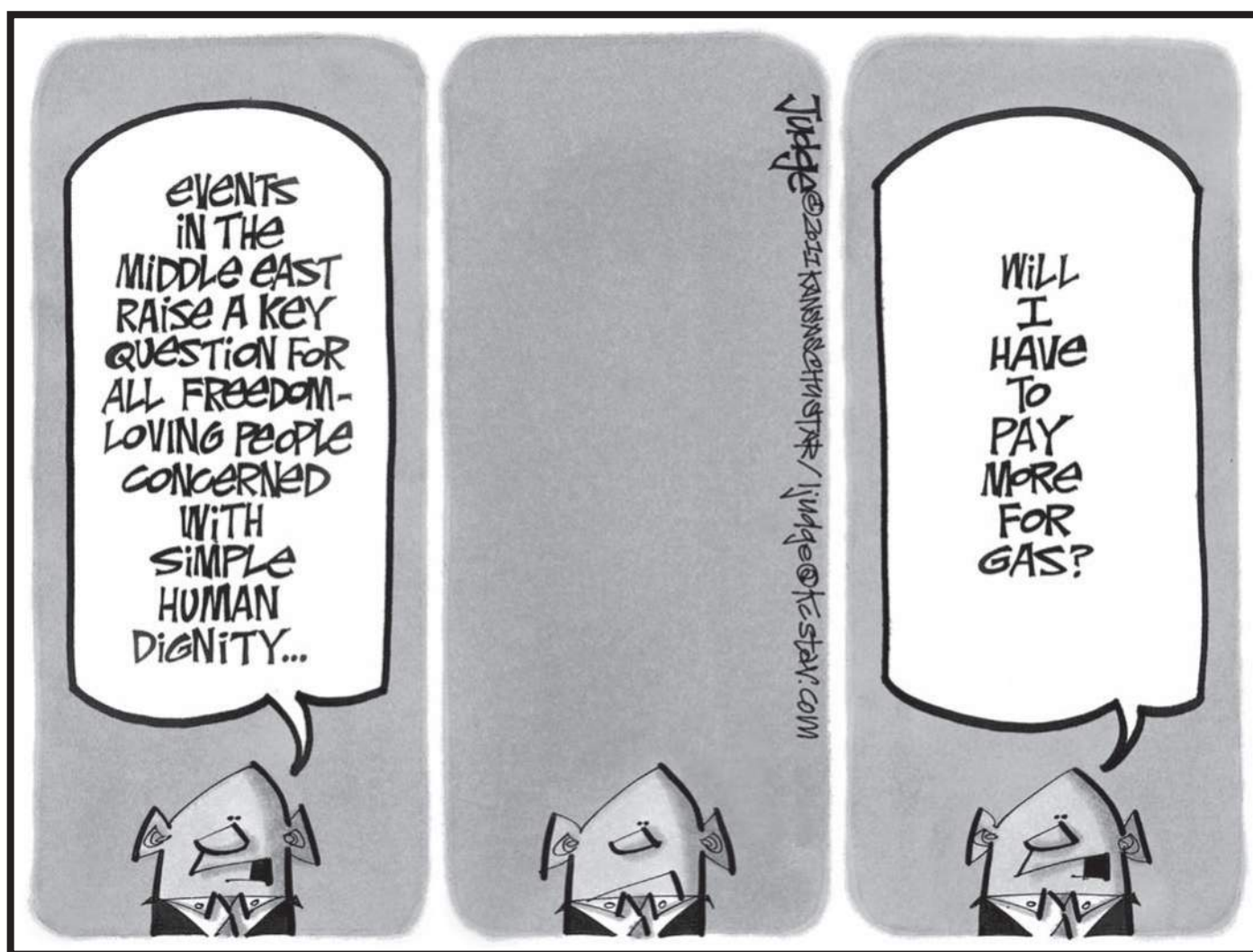
Given the horrific events in Libya, certainly, there is no way back for Gadhafi. Despite his defiance in a rambling, largely incoherent speech Tuesday, in which he blamed everyone but himself for the slaughter of pro-democracy demonstrators, Gadhafi's only way to cling to power now is with brute force. About the only test of will worth seeing Gadhafi pass is his vow to "die as a martyr."

As in Egypt and Tunisia, the protesters' desperate desire for freedom is fueling the uprising. There are encouraging signs, as well, that Gadhafi's regime is crumbling from within—with divisions evident among police, the military, and tribal leaders who control some of the nation's vast wealth-producing oil reserves.

In the event Gadhafi is toppled, an immediate concern would be that—with little government structure in place—it's unclear who or what would follow the dictator. Then again, who wouldn't be an improvement over Gadhafi and his loyalists?

For Americans and others in the West, the instability in the oil-rich country certainly will hit home as oil prices continue to rise. But that spike will be a price worth paying in the long run if Libyans and other Middle East citizens gain the chance to build a future founded upon freedom.

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For female war reporters, a fight on multiple fronts

As a young reporter for the Associated Press, I was told by a supervising editor that he would be willing to send me on an assignment where I could be killed—but not one where I could be raped.

It is a story I have told often to illustrate the bizarre patronizing that women face in the workplace.

But it is a story that takes on new meaning with reports that CBS chief foreign correspondent Lara Logan suffered "a brutal and sustained sexual assault" while covering celebrations in Cairo's Tahrir Square following the resignation of President Hosni Mubarak.

CBS issued this disturbingly vague description of what happened to Ms. Logan only after the Associated Press advised that it planned to run with the story. And because what happened to Ms. Logan might have been anything from gang rape to violent groping, the statement seems to have only inflamed imaginations and ratcheted up the rhetoric.

Ms. Logan and her crew had been detained, blindfolded, cuffed and beaten the week before. But this new incident involved sex, in some form, and that made all the difference.

Almost immediately, I noticed that the public commentary about Ms. Logan was very different from when ABC's Bob Woodruff sustained a traumatic head wound while on assignment in Iraq in January 2006. The reporter had become the story. But while Mr. Woodruff was cast as an intrepid anchorman, Ms. Logan, according to observers, should have known better than to have immersed herself in a crowd of volatile men.

"When someone gets shot in the field," said Judith Matloff, a professor at the Columbia School of Journalism, who has written about sexual assault on female journalists, "there are public tributes. But when it is sexual, it is such an intimate thing that you can't extend sympathy in the same way."

Not only that, she said, but the Internet comments about Ms. Logan, before they were taken down, were "inhuman and salacious."

Lara Logan, a 39-year-old beauty from South Africa, credits her rise to the top of CBS' war coverage to her unquenchable desire to be at the center of the news. As a result of both her beauty and her ambition, she seems to arouse a toxic combination of envy and lasciviousness in her rivals.

Commentator Nir Rosen, for example, Tweeted that he was "rolling his eyes at the attention she will get" and that what happened to Ms. Logan "happened to quite a few women, foreign and Egyptian" in the square that day and that she was trying to "outdo Anderson" Cooper, the CNN anchor who reported that he'd been roughed up by an Egyptian mob. (Mr. Rosen resigned from the New York University Center for Law and Security as a result of the uproar his Tweets caused.)

Mr. Woodruff's good looks and the nature of his climb to the anchor desk at ABC were not part of the reporting after his injury—like Ms. Logan's assault—made him news. He was just a newsman whose jeep ran over a roadside bomb. By contrast, some have

By SUSAN REIMER
The Baltimore SunSusan Reimer: susan.reimer@baltsun.com

wondered: Did Ms. Logan's blonde mane invite trouble?

Ms. Logan was the subject of tabloid gossip for supposedly breaking up a marriage and causing fisticuffs between two suitors, and she has complained about the unprofessional nature of that coverage.

Interestingly, it was female editors at Slate.com who were discussing whether Ms. Logan looked more like Nicole Kidman or Naomi Watts, raising the question of who would play her in the movie version of this story. Would we be having this conversation if she looked like Helen Thomas?

Ms. Logan has been asked repeatedly by interviewers about leaving two young children behind in order to cover war zones, and she has been candid about the irreconcilable conflict her work presents to her motherhood. But I don't recall anyone asking Mr. Woodruff what business he had riding the deadly roads of Iraq when he had a wife and four children at home. Instead, much was made of the support of his loving family during his recuperation.

Mr. Woodruff's head wounds and his recovery became the subject of his eventual reporting and of a foundation he began, and he is heralded as one of the reasons why soldiers with head wounds now receive better care and treatment.

Ms. Logan has told friends that she intends to return to work and not let this "destroy her." It is possible she will demonstrate her professional toughness by frankly sharing what happened to her.

But it will be difficult for her to report on the progress of other women journalists who have been raped or sexually assaulted because a study by Ms. Matloff says they frequently don't report it out of fear their assignments will be curtailed and their careers stunted.

And finally, ABC immediately aired audio of reporter Miguel Marquez being beaten by protesters in Bahrain, but it took CBS five days to report on what happened to Ms. Logan. What was the reason for the delay? Was it some vestigial concern about identifying victims of sexual assault?

Of course, much is still unclear about this story. Are we talking about the use of sexual violence to intimidate women journalists? Or are we talking about a woman who was caught up by a mob the way she might have been caught in the wheels of a chariot?

And, as I asked that long ago AP supervisor, can you explain the difference? And should a woman reporter be allowed to choose between them?

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Going phishing

I guess I should buy a Ouija board now. After all, I'm starting to hear from the great beyond. Or so it seems. On the other hand, I think it's more like hackers and viruses have compromised yet one more Saipan resident's e-mail account, in this case, the account of someone who had passed on.

The Commonwealth apparently has a lot of these types of problems. I don't know if it's because so many people are using shared computers, or because of just plain bad luck, or because so many people are using wide open WiFi services, or what. But something is, most assuredly, going on. Most of the computers I've seen that need to be totally wiped clean and reset aren't in that sorry state because of hardware failure, but because of infections with viruses and other nasties.

It's always hard to understand how big the risks really are. For example, a Jan. 18 article in the (U.K.) *Telegraph* carries this alarming headline: "Eight out of 10 web browsers vulnerable to cyber criminals." It goes on to state, "As many as 8 in 10 web browsers are vulnerable to hackers and criminals because they are not kept up-to-date, researchers have found."

I don't really know how "vulnerable" they really mean, though. I guess everything is theoretically vulnerable no matter what. And the security experts probably have a lot different outlook on things than slobbs like me. But even normal folks can take a few precautions, I figure. So, read on, since none of the following ideas will cost you any money, and they might save you a lot of grief.

One of the biggest vulnerabilities I've seen lately is poorly se-

cured wireless networks. The acronyms are confusingly similar, but it's not too hard to follow: The old WEP (Wired Equivalent Privacy) protocol for security is pretty well discredited, and the newer WPA (WiFi Protected Access) is said to be the better deal. Things get more complicated from here; I'm just giving the simplest possible distinction. Anyway, the take-away is that when you're setting up a wireless router, the default settings might try to lead you to use WEP, but if you poke around the setup options a bit you can probably opt for the superior WPA (or WPA2, the newer version).

Moving to a less technical vulnerability, user behavior, it's amazing how many people still don't "get it" when it comes to e-mail and communications. Any hacker can "spoof" the e-mail address of a bank, of an insurance company, of an e-mail provider, etc. Thus far this year I've known three people who were so gullible they blindly obeyed requests from such e-mails, all with links to phony websites to provide data to "verify their accounts." The hipster word for this bad-guy trick is "phishing."

I have to admit I'm not entirely sympathetic to all of these phishing victims. I mean, at some point, if you believe everything you see on a screen, expending nary a calorie of brain-energy to scrutinize it, a cynic would say there's a reckless degree of laziness involved.

Speaking of lazy, I'm long overdue to present an updated list of good computer freeware, but for now I'll mention quick highlights in the security software realm for those who are still on the Windows XP wavelength.

A *Saipan Tribune* reader recommended a Firefox browser add-on feature called "NoScript," so I tried it out. Hey, it's great! It prevents sites from executing Java, JavaScript, and other routines without

By **ED STEPHENS JR.**
Special to the Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.



your approval.

Meanwhile, the free version of the "Avast!" anti-virus program seems like a winner to me. It's at least been very user-friendly for the few years that I've used it, and it works and plays well with my older machines that don't have an abundance of processor power to spare. It also has a real-time Web security feature to prevent booby-trapped sites from hitting your system. The new version 6 is out. I haven't upgraded yet, but I will.

I'm pretty much overdue to settle on a new firewall but I haven't found one I like yet. So I'm still using old versions of the ZoneAlarm firewall. Anyway, if you're interested in such things, you can test your firewall at GRC.com, which is security guru Steve Gibson's site. Look for the "ShieldsUp" and "Leaktest" features on the site.

About half the neat software I discover comes from *Saipan Tribune* readers, so feel free to pass on any tips you've got. Or if you don't send e-mail, then just focus your thoughts into the far dimension and I'll dial you up on the Ouija.

Energy drinks and health risks

In this fast paced world, isn't it great to have an easy solution for tiredness? Isn't it nice to be able to override your body's ridiculously inconvenient requests for rest? "I'm tired! Please sit down!" your body begs. But you're able to silence it by walking into a grocery store and buying a can of liquid energy. Yes, the energy drink, touted as the solution to the limitations of the human body.

In the March issue of the medical journal *Pediatrics*, a study published by researchers from the University of Miami points out some serious dangers of energy drinks for children, adolescents, and young adults. There has been very little research on energy drinks to date. Combine with that the absence of significant regulation on their content and you can understand the concern. There have been reports of toxicity from energy drinks, and consumption is rising. The dangers are highest for young people.

According to the study, 30-50 percent of children, adolescents, and young adults consume energy drinks regularly. These drinks are categorized as "nutritional supplements" so they are not regulated by the FDA in the same way as soft drinks. For example, soft drinks are limited to 71 mg of caffeine per 12-oz can. Energy drinks

do not have this limit, and some of them contain up to 400 mg of caffeine. Safe levels for adolescents are less than 100 mg per day. So a single energy drink can give a young person a dose of caffeine four times higher than the upper limit.

In 2007 there were over 5,000 cases of caffeine overdose reported in the U.S., and nearly half of these were in individuals under 19 years of age. Clearly, youth, who are being targeted through the marketing efforts of energy drink companies, are at risk. The toxicities from energy drinks have included liver failure and kidney damage, confusion and seizures, respiratory problems and difficulty breathing, heart conditions such as tachycardia, dysarrhythmia, and even heart attacks. Caffeine has also been show to interfere with normal bone development, which is of particular importance in young people.

I'll have to admit that it does puzzle me that young people would be attracted to energy drinks, or need them in any way. Aren't they at their peak of energy levels just by virtue of being young? And what do they need more energy for anyway? My recommendation for tiredness is rest. If you're tired and healthy, and you gotta have some more energy, then go outside and run a mile. That'll perk

By **DAVID KHORRAM**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

David Khorram, MD, is a board certified ophthalmologist and the medical director of Marianas Eye Institute, hailed by Retinal Physician Magazine as "one of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region." Dr. Khorram is listed in Guide to American's Top Ophthalmologists and is a member of the American Society of Retina Specialists.



you up. But while these energy drinks remain under-regulated, and while the full range of their dangers are unknown, I'm sticking to water and sleep.

Disclaimer: Topics discussed are for example or illustrative purposes only, and do not to be taken as medical or professional advice. Comments or questions? Call Dr. Khorram at 235-9090 or contact him through www.MarianasEye.com.

Letters to the Editor

Clarification on unfair hiring

The letter from Josie Kaipat was truly refreshing in that we still have people who know how to make inquires about the message without attacking the messenger. Josie's questions are indeed legitimate and fitting as what I wrote about the government's hiring practices continue to grow. I hope my response will satisfy Josie and others who might have the same concerns.

1 & 2: Any social scientist will tell you that we have a problem whenever favoritism for jobs is based on race and I'm sure it is obvious that there are now more Carolinians in government and far fewer Chamorros. As for the actual data, you only need to visit government agencies as there is no real data available. The CNMI does not do its homework when it comes to jobs for locals. But I'm sure most people that have been keeping informed on the government will agree that favoritism toward Carolinians is taking place. In fact, even more people have come to me since the letter confirming this and admitted that most locals are afraid to speak about this because of family ties.

3. I am just saying that the phenomenon needs to be checked before it becomes a real threat. I'm not trying to do anything but educate the general public in hopes of preventing a riot. The only thing I was encouraging was for the government to make sure they are truly being fair in their hiring practices.

4. The population of the Carolinians is around 6 percent and the Chamorros is around 21 percent, which is a good indicator that there may always be more Chamorros working in government for some time into the future but the ratio in government jobs has shifted in the Carolinians' favor and it is becoming noticeable. Personally I wouldn't care what ethnic group was in charge; I just want to see

some real progress and improvements. We need some "progressive leadership" and I would be complaining of these conditions regardless of who was at the helm.

I think most readers understand why I was asked to write the letter because I am one of a few with the nerve, the know-how, and conviction to say something publicly. As I said in my letter, jobs in these hard times are a serious issue and I know from history and personal experience that our government *does not deal with serious issues until they have to!* However, my writing about it puts the government on notice and it should be taking steps to ensure this does not become a protest or a riot. To say nothing is like leaving the matter in an incubator to continue growing and only those in denial will refute this argument.

This *is not* about the Carolinian people as a whole but a Carolinian administration that is reflecting on the Carolinians in a bad light, which is why I said focus your anger at the administration. The world is changing everyday at an alarming pace but we are still functioning on "island time," which is lackadaisical. Do we really want to wait until there are protests before something is said or done about the hiring practices of this administration? I know for a fact that many Chamorros were pleased to see my letter and at the same time some Carolinians may be in denial. The best thing that could happen would be for both sides to admit the truth that the administration is causing a social divide and pressure the administration to simply do the right thing and stop the favoritism.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Desk audits done right

Desk audits, if done properly and systematically, should only deal with the positions in question. Desk audits do not determine relative efficiency of operations. It has nothing to do with the incumbents holding the positions being reviewed and under study. Desk audits do not deal with such matters as reducing costs. Desk audits do not take into account the qualifications of incumbents holding the positions being investigated. A desk audit's main objective is to determine what duties and responsibilities are assigned to a position by a competent and appointing authority. It is calling-a-spade-a-spade process and analysis.

If OPM and competent personnel officers in the CNMI government had designed and published a justified "job specification" for all authorized and lawful positions being utilized by the CNMI government, then the desk audit process is a tool to confirm such facts about the positions under study. But when the "job specifications" do not define with some level of precision the positions, just imagine how the ripple effects would turn into a chaotic and unmanageable handling of positions.






It must be understood that positions are the resources upon which public funds are being expended. Our employees once hired are assigned to perform the duties and responsibilities of the positions. I hope that the good senator who is chairing the EAGI Committee understands this basic tenet of public personnel administration.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

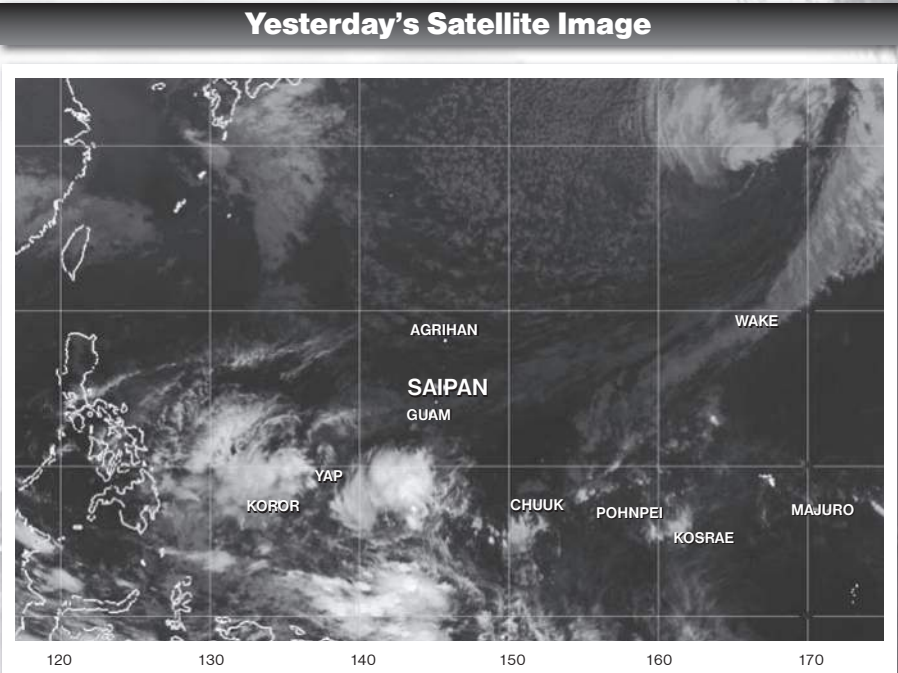
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times with northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times with northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times with northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times with northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Windy	▲84 ▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼79
Pohnpei	Rain	▲84 ▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲89 ▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲83 ▼78

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼65
Beijing	Ice	▲40 ▼26
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲67 ▼63
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▼69
London	Cloudy	▲53 ▼45
Los Angeles	Showers	▲56 ▼42
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼73
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▼57
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲82 ▼61
New York	Rain	▲45 ▼27
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲55 ▼38
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲50 ▼45
Pusan	Showers	▲52 ▼41
Rome	Sunny	▲53 ▼34
Salem	Sunny	▲36 ▼20
San Francisco	Rain	▲49 ▼37
Seoul	Showers	▲48 ▼28
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲53 ▼41
Washington, DC	Rain	▲52 ▼32

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
2:06 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
6:55 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
12:17 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:12 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front transitioning to a shear line runs southwestward from 25N168E through 19N160E across Saipan to end near 12N140E. Clouds and scattered showers are along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary. Converging winds ahead of the cold front are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Wake Island within 100 miles of a line from 25N170E to 15N160E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 6N130E through a weak circulation southeast of Koror near 7N140E and through another weak circulation near 6N143E then southeastward to end near 3N146E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from Yap across Palau are between the equator and 10N to the west of 147E farther to the east. Scattered showers associated with a trade-wind trough are between Chuuk and Pohnpei within 150 miles of a line from 3N153E to 9N156E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:37 AM	6:24 PM	Today	12:20 AM	11:52 AM
Saturday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM	Saturday	1:18 AM	12:47 PM
Sunday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM	Sunday	2:12 AM	1:42 PM
Monday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM	Monday	3:03 AM	2:37 PM
Tuesday	6:35 AM	6:25 PM	Tuesday	3:49 AM	3:29 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
SAIPAN-GUAM			GUAM-SAIPAN		
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am 3:35am
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am 7:25am
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am 7:50am
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am 10:55am
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm 2:30pm
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm 5:50pm
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm 8:50pm
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN		
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am 3:05pm
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm 12:20am+1
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm 12:30am+1
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN		
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am 2:20am+1
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN		
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm 2:20am+1
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN		
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am 2:20pm
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm 2:20am+1
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm 1:00am+1
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm 1:30am+1
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN		
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm 1:50am+1
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN		
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm 1:55am+1
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN		
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am 2:20pm
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am 2:20pm
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am 12:20am+1
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am 8:50pm
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm 1:00am+1
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm 1:30am+1
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm 7:25am+1
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm 7:50am+1
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm 7:25am+1
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm 7:50am+1
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm 7:50am+1
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm 7:50am+1
SAIPAN-HONG KONG			HONG KONG-SAIPAN		
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am 2:20pm
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am 2:20pm
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm 1:00am+1
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm 1:30am+1
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm 7:50am+1
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)					

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE					
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD
Guam-Rota			FRE 113	11:40	11:50
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00
Rota-Saipan			FRE 117	14:30	14:40
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00
Guam-Rota			FRE 121	16:40	16:50
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40
Rota-Saipan			FRE 125	18:30	18:40
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan	
Saipan-Rota			FRE 102	7:05	7:15
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50
Rota-Guam			FRE 106	8:20	8:30
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00
Saipan-Rota			FRE 110	10:00	10:10
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05
Rota-Guam			FRE 114	12:00	12:10
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30
Saipan-Tinian			FRE 118	14:50	15:00
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily		
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily		

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
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- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.



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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Letters to the Editor

I guess you have not had enough yet

I am talking about high utility rates. I want to make it clear to everyone that I am not supporting a co-op utility for personal gain. I heard the comments last week: "Who does Prosser think he is, trying to tell us what to do." That is not an exact quote; I cannot print in the language that was used. Well, I am not trying to tell you what to do. I am suggesting a plan of action that I feel will work. If anyone has a better idea, bring it to the next meeting

and let's take a look at it. What I am trying to do is to get the residents to work together and come up with a plan of action. Let's get the utility rates down to where we can afford to pay them. I want the residents of the CNMI to do this for themselves and their families. I have done a lot of research on the different forms of utility providers. The model that suits the island is a co-op utility. Do not get me wrong. There is no easy fix

to the mess that the last three administrations have made out of our utilities. It took former director Kumoi and the CUC workforce four years to build a working utility system. The politicians have had 16 years to mess it all up. It seems local leaders have never heard of preventive maintenance. It is a lot easier and cheaper to fix a minor problem than to wait 'til it become a major problem.

I am looking for local lead-

ers to come forward and support the co-op or if they have a better idea, let's take a look at it. I am not going to be able to put the effort into the program that it needs. I have a serious heart condition and my doctor had advised me to back off. I will do everything that I can to help residents have a better life. I have had 20 good years here on the island and I would like to give something back. I will not put myself in an early

grave trying to help people who will not help themselves. So people, it is up to you what you want to do. So please come out to the next meeting and let's either get moving or just tell me to butt out.

If you want to talk to me rather than talk about me, my phone numbers are 322-2609 and 285-1940.

Frederick Prosser
As Matuis, Saipan

Global budget crises

From state to state—and also in U.S. territories—we see budget crises. If we look at other countries, most of them are also experiencing budget crises. So now people are fighting back due to

government corruption that has been building up for decades. This has to happen because people and families are sick and tired of the hardship imposed on them by their public officials. All

these problems are pretty much connected if we look at the misconduct and unethical activities of each government.

For example let's look at the global financial meltdown that

is happening around the world. This was caused by corporate investors wheeling and dealing around the world with no oversight or regulations from country to country, including

here in the United States and all its territories.

This also has something to do with government officials in charge of taxpayers' money who gamble with public funds or pension funds or retirement funds to make money. Little do they know that if the global economy crashes it will have a domino effect that will reach even the tiny island of Managaha on Saipan.

So here we are now, debating on what's the best move to stabilize our economy. On the one hand, the U.S. Republicans want to cut off all federal funds that the CNMI has been getting for decades (I call these cuts the slash-and-burn cuts or radical ideology cuts). I knew this was coming but somebody said we have to wait and see. Well, what can I say now but I told you so last year.

Here is the truth: It's better to get a little so our government can learn some tough lesson on imposing hardship on our people. Hopefully our officials will see that what goes around comes around but the fact that our people are still suffering the most is a result of our officials inaction, for not planning ahead for situations like what we are experiencing now.

We have to stop blaming the U.S. government. Who are the people who gambled away our taxpayers' money or our retirement funds? Our past and present long-time officials. The reality is we're so good at imposing hardship on all our people and this is been going on for years now.

Let me make a clear statement to Mr. Ambrose Bennett: Your Republicans and their plan is to phase out the Union's leadership, which is composed of middle-class working Americans, so they don't have power against greedy corporate millionaires and billionaires. I don't call this social science; I call this social injustice to all hard working middle-class Americans. The bottom line is there are more Chamorros working in our local government than Carolinians because if you look at the Census we are outnumbered by Chamorros and Filipinos, so for you to come up with your personal vendetta against us Carolinians is out of whack. Be an honest writer, please, Ambrose.

Joaquin O. Romolor
Portland, Ore.

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Feel the difference

Fitial meets with USCIS director Mayorkas in DC



Gov. Benigno R. Fitia and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services director Ali Mayorkas have their picture taken at the USCIS headquarters in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 23, 2011.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Seasonal flu vaccination drive tomorrow

The Department of Public Health will be conducting a mass vaccination drive for the public tomorrow, Feb. 26, at the Ada Gymnasium in Oleai from 7am to 12pm.

Flu shots will be available to the public for free. All people 6 months of age and older should get the flu shot. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Flu shots will not be given to persons allergic to eggs or with a fever.

DPH is encouraging the public to get the flu shot. By getting vaccinated, and practicing proper hygiene, people can protect themselves from the flu and may also avoid spreading the flu to others. To learn more, visit www.cdc.gov/flu and www.dph.gov. (DPH)

CNMI Women's Association on Marianas Agupa

Tomorrow, Feb 26, 2011, Marianas Agupa will feature Susan Deleon Guerrero and Malua Peters of the CNMI Women's As-

sociation, from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be issues affecting today's women and other activities and events sponsored by the association.

The Chamorro talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. It will feature reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, commentator Thomas D. Mendiola from Rota, and former senator David M. Cing from Tinian. Simultaneous In-

See **COMMUNITY** on Next Page

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Gov. Benigno R. Fitia called on Ali Mayorkas, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services director, at the USCIS headquarters on Feb. 23, to discuss the implementation of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, the law that extended federal immigration control to the Commonwealth.

Fitia emphasized with Mayorkas his administration's priority to foster private sector employment opportunities for U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents in the CNMI and the continuing critical importance of guest workers to the CNMI, especially in light of severe economic challenges facing the islands.

He brought to USCIS' attention concerns about unemployed alien residents, and about particular populations of

aliens posing humanitarian issues, such as individuals with medical needs.

Mayorkas stressed the USCIS' continuing commitment as an agency priority—under Interior Secretary Janet Napolitano's leadership and working closely with its DHS partners—to implement the CNRA in ways that respect the unique situation of the CNMI and its diverse population while remaining consistent with the statutory directive to administer federal immigration law fully and fairly.

Mayorkas also emphasized the USCIS' commitment to ensuring public outreach to the people of the CNMI about USCIS rules, policies, and procedures affecting the Commonwealth.

Fitia and Mayorkas agreed that it is in the interest of all

to foster a strong working relationship between USCIS and the CNMI government, with a view toward dispute resolution and ensuring consistent public guidance.

Toward this end, the two agreed that they will direct their respective staffs to meet on a regular basis to exchange current information and address quickly and efficiently issues of mutual concern.

On Nov. 28, 2009, USCIS and other Department of Homeland Security components assumed responsibility for immigration administration and enforcement in the CNMI pursuant to the CNRA, which extended most provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act and other federal immigration laws to the CNMI for the first time. (*Office of the CNMI Governor*)

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FHB donates \$7.3K to Northern Marianas Trades Institute

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

First Hawaiian Bank yesterday made a donation of \$7,295 to Northern Marianas Trades Institute at the bank's Gualo Rai Branch.

Bank officials presented the check to NMTI president Anthony Pellegrino and education director Victorino Cepeda.

Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, senior vice president and region manager for Guam and CNMI, said the donated amount was raised in conjunction with the bank's 40th anniversary celebration last year.

"From April 1 to Dec. 31, we pledged \$1 for every new account opened and every service provided on Saipan and Guam," she said.



First Hawaiian Bank senior vice president and region manager Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, second left, hands a giant check worth \$7,295 to Northern Marianas Trades Institute president Tony Pellegrino yesterday at the bank's Gualo Rai branch. From left, vice president and area manager Juan Lizama; Dacanay; Pellegrino; education director Victorino Cepeda; and Oleai branch manager Victoria Concepcion.

According to Dacanay, First Hawaiian Bank's three branches in Guam raised a total of \$18,440, which was donated to the Guam Contractors Association Trades Academy on Wednesday.

First Hawaiian Bank's Oleai and Gualo Rai branches, on the other hand, raised a total of \$7,295.

"Considering today's economy, we're very happy to be able to do this. We believe in giving back to the communities we work in," she said.

Dacanay disclosed that First Hawaiian Bank already has a scholarship program for students of the Northern Marianas College on Saipan, the University of Guam, and Guam Community College so they decided to donate to the NMTI.

"We wanted to reach out further and bring out more skilled trades for the island of Saipan. It's about giving people the opportunity to advance themselves through better skills and training," Dacanay said.

Last November, First Hawaiian Bank also donated \$10,000 to NMTI through its foundation.

"We're very honored and pleased to receive this kind of donation. It only proves that they believe in what we're trying to do, which is to develop a skilled workforce in the CNMI," Pellegrino told *Saipan Tribune*.

Pellegrino said the donation will be used to purchase supplies and equipment as well as add to their budget for building five additional classrooms, which would cost about \$35,000.

Since the students themselves build the classrooms and they buy materials at cost, Pellegrino said the cost for building classrooms is reduced.

"It serves as a good training for our own students. They also take ownership because they build the classrooms themselves," he said.

Once the classrooms are built, Pellegrino said they will put a plaque indicating that the rooms were made possible through FHB's donation.

COMMUNITY

From Page 15

ternet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (PR)

FOA to hold auditions for next production

Friends of the Arts announces auditions for its upcoming production, *The Three Musketeers*, a comedy version, G-rated. There are 18 roles, all ages; gender is not really an issue. New faces are welcome. Rehearsals will begin next week, March 3. Performance dates are April 29 and 30 and May 1.

Auditions will be held this weekend, Saturday, Feb. 26, from 9am to noon, and on Sunday, Feb. 27, from 1pm to 5pm, in Room D101 at Marianas High School. Come and take part in another great show. For more information, contact Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com. (PR)

Veteran outreach on Rota, Saipan

This is to let all veterans, and all concern that on April 4-7, 2011,

Tina San Augustine, the federal Department of Veterans Affairs legal administrative specialist from Guam, and Ruth Coleman, executive officer of the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs, will be on Rota and Saipan for an outreach on veterans' federal benefits. They will be also entertaining questions and assisting with claims.

■ Rota: April 4-5, 2011, 8:30am-4:30pm at the Rota WIA office

■ Saipan: April 6-7, 2011, 8:30am-4:30pm at the Office of the Military/Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill, building 1364

To make an appointment or for further information, call Coleman or Bernie Dela Cruz at

the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. (PR)

Bases to take part in Marianas Shield 2011

SANTA RITA, Guam—Marianas Shield 2011 will be conducted on military installations in Guam on Feb. 28-March 4.

The exercise is designed to enhance the training and readiness of military security personnel to respond to threats to installations and units.

Measures have been taken to minimize disruptions to normal base and station operations, but there may be times when the exercise causes increased traffic around bases or delays in base access. Area residents may see and hear increased security activity associated with the exercise.

Deadline for submission of Tier II forms on March 1

HONOLULU—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reminds facilities in Guam, the CNMI, and American Samoa of the March 1 deadline for the annual submission of Tier II inventory reporting forms for storage of hazardous chemicals during calendar year 2010 subject to Section 312 of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. The Tier II reports need to be submitted to the local fire department and the leading territorial agencies implementing the EPCRA law. Facilities found in non-compliance are subject to penalties up to \$37,500 per day. Additional information about program requirements, reporting forms and reporting contacts may be found in featured story at website: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/superfund/chem-safety/> (PR)

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'Hiring of classroom teachers is sole responsibility of principals'

13 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged 13 beach sites on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites are the Palms Resort, Plumeria Hotel, Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, American Memorial Park, Micro Beach, Hafadai Hotel drainage, Garapan Beach, Garapan Beach drainage, Saipan World Re-

sort, CK District 2 drainage, and Hopwood school beach.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on the Saipan coast on Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan clarified yesterday that the hiring of classroom teachers is the sole decision of school principals who know what they are looking for in their teaching staff.

The commissioner's office, she said, comes into the picture only when contracts are needed to be signed for their employment.

This was in reaction to reports that, although PSS still lacks highly qualified teachers to fill some positions, some HQT applicants have not been considered for employment.

During Wednesday's opening of the U.S. Army Career Center in Oleai, Sablan said cannot say if there are highly qualified applicants that are being turned down for employment with the system.

"When it comes to recruitment of classroom teachers, those require school-level decisions [by school principal]. But normally, when it's middle of the school year some positions are not needed to be filled," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the human resource office works closely with school principals

on the employment needs of their campuses.

Over 560 classroom teachers are employed in 20 public schools this school year.

As of Feb. 18, highly qualified teachers comprise 77 percent of the PSS teaching workforce, Sablan said.

With only five months left before the July 31 federal deadline to have 100 percent highly qualified personnel, Sablan is confident that PSS can make it.

"I am very confident that we can meet it because we have

only a few that need to pass both Praxis tests," she said, adding that the system has the same expectations for its school administrators and school counselors who need also to be fully certified by July.

Saipan Tribune learned that PSS still has over 150 teachers who do not meet the requirements and could soon lose their jobs if they fail to pass the rigorous standards.

There are three requirements for classroom teachers to be deemed highly qualified, pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act: possession of a degree, valid teaching certificates, and passing both Praxis 1 and 2 tests.



Sablan

Beach volleyball magazine to cover 2011 Marianas Cup

Japan's *Beach Volleyball Style* magazine is sending its chief editor back to Saipan this week to cover the Marianas Beach Volleyball Festival 2011 on the white sand beach of Fiesta Resort & Spa.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, the magazine, which also covered the festival last year, will feature the festival on four, full-color pages of its May 2011 edition at an ad exposure value of \$14,700.

Chief editor Ai Yoshida is scheduled to return to Saipan for the duration of the festival from Saturday, Feb. 26, to Sunday, March 13.

The festival will feature a free Kids Clinic on Feb. 24, free Pro Exhibition Games on Feb. 25, ProAm Pool Play on Saturday, and ProAm Double Elimination on Sunday. The event continues through next weekend, March 4-6, when the Northern Mariana Islands hosts to the first-ever Subzonal Olympic Qualifying event, which is part of the FIVB's and the AVC's yearlong process of elimination en route to the 2012 London Olympic games. The festival will finish up with the Marianas Kids Cup on March 13.

"The MVA is pleased to lend its sponsorship support to the Marianas Beach Volleyball Festival as one of the sustainable

sporting events of the Marianas that attracts international media attention and has proven longevity," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "There



Bateman

are professionals who return year after year for the festival, and as with the return this year of Beach Volleyball Style magazine, we see there is a continuing opportunity to secure publicity for our islands through this event."

"International media coverage is essential to the success of all of the NMI's sporting events. We are grateful for *Beach Volleyball Style* magazine's return!" said Laurie Peterka, president of the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association, the national federation for volleyball in the NMI. "The more coverage our event gains the more likely the chance we have to reach our goals for bringing the FIVB Beach Volleyball Swatch World Tour to the NMI."

Beach Volleyball Style is published quarterly by J-beach and circulates to 3,000 volleyball players and fans. The magazine targets players of professional and amateur leagues in their 20s to 40s. The article on the Marianas Beach Volleyball Festival will focus on playing techniques, photos, and player profiles. (MVA)

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Saturday @ 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Tel.: 288-3441/2/3

Restaurant & Bar *Five O* at **CHALAN KANOA BEACH HOTEL** *Ultimate Tropical Getaway*

Breakfast & Lunch Special from February 28-March 4, 2011

	MONDAY (Feb. 28)	TUESDAY (Mar. 01)	WEDNESDAY (Mar. 02)	THURSDAY (Mar. 03)	FRIDAY (Mar. 04)
BREAKFAST Special for \$6.95	Arozaldo Congee	Grilled Ham & Cheese	Macademia Pancakes	Bacon & Spam	"Five O" Griddle Sampler
All breakfast comes with Hawaiian Coffee					
LUNCH Special for \$6.95	Baked Stuffed Cabbage Ground Beef	Seafood Tofu in hotplate	Hawaiian Spam Musubi & Fried Chicken	Baked Spaghetti with Garlic toast	Sushi Burger
All lunch special comes with White Rice, choice of Soup or Salad of the day and also Tropical Hawaiian Iced Tea					

For reservation, please call 234-7829

Operation Hours-Opens Daily: Restaurant Breakfast - 7:00am to 10:00am • Lunch- 11:00 am to 2:00pm • Dinner - 6:00pm to 9:30pm

WANTED : COOK

CKBH is looking to hire COOK to join the "FIVE O"
Pls. drop RESUME at the Front-desk


Weekend Special

Breakfast or Lunch
Minimum of 2 paxs
Free 1 hour use of Tennis Court, Beach Volley Ball Court then afterward usage of the swimming pool.

Happy Hours:

4 pm - 7 pm (Daily)
All drinks are 50% OFF
with 1 plate FREE Chaser

Entertainment for this Friday:
Kaliko & Virgel
Hawaiian Music



GIG DISCOTHEQUE

NO ID NO ENTRY

(PASSPORT, DRIVER'S LICENSE OR
ANY ID ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT)

NOTICE

Amendment. Section 10 (Prohibition) of the ABC Rules and Regulations is hereby amended by adding a new sub-section (d) to read as follows:

***(d)** A license, his/her/agent, or employees shall not permit any person under the age of twenty-one (21) years to sit or stand at the bar of any establishment which is primarily engaged in the sale of alcoholic beverages; provided, however, that minors may be permitted in an established dining area to sit, to eat, or consume any non-alcoholic beverages at a table. With the exception of a Restaurant establishment, the licensee shall not permit any person to enter his/her establishment in the absence of an established dining area.

Dangerous surf in Marianas until Tuesday

GUAM—Coast Guard Sector Guam warns boaters and beach goers to exercise caution in all waters across Micronesia through Tuesday of next week. The National Weather Service has issued several high surf warnings and small craft advisories for north and east facing reefs along Guam, Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Beginning Thursday through Tuesday, surf is predicted to build 12 to 16 feet along north facing reefs and 10 to 13 feet along east facing reefs on Tinian and Saipan. Hazardous seas will also affect Guam and Rota with surf predicted to build 9 to 12 feet along north facing reefs and 8 to 11 feet along east facing reefs.

A small craft advisory for hazardous seas is also in effect for all the islands through Monday. Seas are anticipated to remain above 10 feet and winds are expected to remain in excess of 25 knots creating waves along affected reefs higher than normal, making it exceptionally dangerous for small vessels and swimmers. The National Weather Service recommends mariners operating small vessels should avoid navigating in these conditions.

Mariners should check current and forecasted weather conditions prior to getting underway, and remain aware of changing conditions once on the water. Coast Guard Sector Guam advises mariners: if in doubt, don't go out!

Boaters are strongly encouraged to have a VHF marine radio on board to monitor weather conditions, communicate with other mariners and call for help in the event of an emergency. The Coast Guard reminds all mariners that channel 16 is the emergency channel and is monitored around-the-clock.

In addition, marinas and boaters are reminded to check that boats in port are properly secured, bilge pumps are functional, and all loose items are removed from decks. Report any boats adrift, pollution or other maritime emergencies to the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center at 671-564-USCG. *(USCG)*

SAFETY TIPS

Here are some tips for those who choose to go out on the water during the potentially heavy weather:

Leave a float plan with a responsible individual who knows your intentions, location and who they should call if you do not return as scheduled.

Wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket and set the example for your passengers or paddling partners.

Be prepared for the shock of sudden immersion and the disabling effects of cold water. Plan for the worst: dress as though you are going to get wet and be cold.

Maintain awareness on the water — be aware of activity around your vessel including changing weather, and always know your location.

Don't boat alone — boating alone is not recommended. Recreational paddlers canoeists and kayakers often travel with a single craft and one partner, or even solo, but it is recommended you canoe, kayak or boat with at least three people or two craft.


Kayakers and paddlers are highly encouraged to use the Paddle Smart Identification Sticker. In situations where a craft is found without its paddler, this sticker can allow the Coast Guard to quickly identify who to contact and determine whether they have an emergency rescue situation on their hands.

Know your limitations — be honest with yourself and your companions. Your life and the lives of those in your party may depend on how everyone understands each other's capabilities.


For safety equipment requirements based on the size and type of your vessel, visit: <http://www.uscgboating.org/>

For local National Weather Service advisories, visit: <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/>

Source: U.S. Coast Guard



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW11-IFB-004

KAGMAN PATHWAY PHASE II, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Kagman Pathway Phase II**, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

The project package will be available on or after **February 11, 2011** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, Gov't. Bldg. 1353 Mednilla Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars (**US\$100**). Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certificate (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2011. **Preference is available to US Citizens as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID if preference is claimed.**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **March 02, 2011**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the DPW Confrence Room, 2nd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **March 09, 2011** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho**, Acting Director of Technical Services Division, Mednilla Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW11-IFB-004**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **March 15, 2011**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain and additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time **March 15, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via email to procurement@opticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of the sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 15, 2011** and must be received no later than **March 24, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required numbers of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **March 29, 2011**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bid will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on **March 18, 2011**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bus security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid Security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for the contract greater than **\$25,000.00**. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time and completion of this is **one hundred twenty (120) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (**US \$100.00**) per working day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

LONG TERM LEASEHOLD RIGHTS FOR SALE

House and lot located in friendly neighborhood in Dan Dan, Saipan.

Residential concrete house with three bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, large living room, kitchen and dining room. Semi furnished with European furniture and ready to use appliances.

Conveniently located, 5 minutes from airport. Covered carport, fenced and gated with large front and backyard and fruit bearing trees.

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT CORY AT 285-2679.



'Removal of junk cars at DPS ongoing'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The tagging and removal of a number of junk vehicles found within the Department of Public Safety compound has already begun a few days ago, according to zoning administrator Douglas Wyatt.

Wyatt disclosed that there are about 50 to 80 junk cars in the DPS compound, which raised concerns among zoning staff and reported it to the board during their meeting on Feb. 11.

According to Wyatt, DPS has taken responsibility for the tagging since the vehicles were found in their compound.

"Our office is not doing the tagging. It's between DPS and another auto shop, Success Auto Shop," Wyatt told *Saipan Tribune*.

Wyatt said their office coordinated with the Saipan Mayor's Office and Triple Star Recycling, which will provide boom trucks to remove the tagged junk cars.

"What we're going to be doing is monitoring the site to make sure that the removal does occur. Removal is happening now, so that's good," the administrator noted.

Junk car program

In other news, the zoning office tagged a total of 82 junk cars for its islandwide junk vehicle removal program in 2010.

The program was launched by the zoning office in 2010 in collaboration with the Saipan Mayor's Office and two recycling companies, Ericco Recycling and Triple Star Recycling.


Of the 82 tagged cars, 40 had been voluntarily removed by its owners, 14 were taken to Ericco Recycling, 20 were taken to Triple Star Recycling, eight were removed by the Mayor's Office and taken to Ericco, five were removed by the Mayor's Office and taken to Triple Star, while 11 are still awaiting removal.

"I am pleased with the efforts that our staff does and we always hope to make a difference as far as cleaning up and beautifying the island," Wyatt said yesterday.

For 2011, Wyatt said nine cars have already been tagged as of Feb. 24. Of this, six had been voluntarily removed by the owner, two were removed by the Mayor's Office and taken to Triple Star Recycling, and only one car is awaiting removal.

Wyatt said they will continue with their efforts in the islandwide junk vehicle removal program. However, he noted that there are no plans to intensify the program as no extra funding is available.

PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST THE FLU!



FREE for ALL!

KUNG-FLU

NO CHC BLUE CARD NEEDED

Flu Vaccine Drive:

Saturday, February 26th!




TIME: 7AM to 12PM (or while supplies last)

WHERE: Ada Gymnasium

WHO: ALL people 6 months of age & older

The more people vaccinated, the less likely the flu will spread in the coming months.

Flu shots will NOT be given to persons allergic to eggs or with a fever! Children must be escorted by parental guardian.

For more information, contact DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH at 236-8703
website: fluwatchdph.gov.mp

make yours
healthy

sweet onion
chicken teriyaki



6 grams of fat or less*
on 6" subs*



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AAFB Building #22026

AAFB Exchange

Barrigada
Dededo Shell Station

Guam Premier Outlets

Micronesia Mall
Mangilao

Naval Hospital

NEXCOM Bldg #20
NEXCOM Bldg #258

Tamuning

Tumon
Yigo Shell Station

SAIPAN LOCATIONS:

Gualo Rai
Chalan Piao

Paseo de Marianas,
Garapan

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*Fat content refers to 6-inch sub on white or 9-grain wheat bread prepared according to standard recipe without cheese or condiments that contain fat.

www.subwaypacific.com

Island Snapshots



ARMY OF ONE

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Crawson, Portland Recruiting Battalion commander, swears in Wednesday 15 individuals who have already expressed their interest to join the Army after graduating from high school this school year. The occasion also marked the opening of a recruiting center for the U.S. Army along Beach Road in Oleai, Saipan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



ROAD MISHAP

Police officer Daniel Smith, left, and medics respond to the scene of an accident Wednesday afternoon along Beach Road in Chalan Lau Lau where a pickup truck hit another vehicle. No serious injury was reported.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



Lt. Col. Thomas A. Crawson, Portland Recruiting Battalion commander, speaks to a large crowd of students, lawmakers, and community members during the opening ceremonies for the U.S. Army's newest recruiting center, located along Beach Road in Oleai, Saipan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



JROTC cadets display the colors during Wednesday's opening ceremonies for the new U.S. Army recruiting center along Beach Road in Oleai, Saipan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



This birthday shoutout goes out to Didi Ruak Santos, who is celebrating her special day today, Feb. 25, 2011! Cheers and enjoy! Greetings come from your friends and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Gregorio Maui Perez Jr., who is celebrating his special day today, Feb. 25, 2011! May your day be filled with fun and laughter and many more blessings. With much love from Mom, Dad, and your Agulto family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



"Happy birthday greetings go out to Margarita Sergutkina! We wish you health and happiness! We love you very much! We are always here for you. Greetings coming out from your husband, daughter, granddaughter, son-in-law, and your mother.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

William M. Fitzgerald, Esq.
LAW OFFICES OF WILLIAM M. FITZGERALD
2nd FL Macaranas Bldg., Garapan Beach Road
P.O. Box 500909 Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-7241
Fax: (670) 234-7530

Attorney for Petitioner Antonio R. Cabrera

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF] FCD CIVIL CASE NO. 11-0052
TIANA ESTELLE]
ZI QING HUANG] NOTICE OF HEARING
CABRERA,]
a minor child.]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian Ad Litem, filed by Petitioner Antonio R. Cabrera, was filed in the above-entitled Court.

A hearing on this matter is set on **March 17, 2011**, at **10:00 a.m.** at the Guma' Hustisia Building, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 16th day of February, 2011.

BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of] CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0010
of the Estate of]
DIMAS ATALIG]
HOCOG]
Deceased.] NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES AND CREDITORS OF DIMAS ATALIG HOCOG, DECEASED

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the **BANK OF SAIPAN**, a CNMI Corporation, has filed with the Clerk of Court a Petition for Letters of Administration in the Estate of Dimas A. Hocog, deceased. The petition will be heard at the Superior Court, Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan on **March 15, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.**

For further particulars please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for petitioner, S. Joshua Berger, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, 235-8060.

CREDITORS of Decedent or of his Estate are hereby notified that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

DATED, February 10, 2011.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MAGDALENA I. MAMUN) FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0438
Petitioner)
vs.) SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
MOHAMMED MAMUN)
Respondent)

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HERBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 503714 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 17th day of February

/s/ Clerk of Court

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION FOR BID
IFB11-CHC-049 (1-9)**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 28, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PROCUREMENT OF CNMI SNS-RSS DISASTER SUPPORT
EQUIPMENTS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATION MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS IFB SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO WARREN F. VILLAGOMEZ, BIO TERRORISM PROGRAM MANAGER BY FAX TO (670) 236-8769 OR E-MAIL TO Warrenvillagomez@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **MARCH 15, 2011.**

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



Happy birthday greetings go out to Lawrence Guevarra! With lots of love from all the members of the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Higher oil prices would hamper global economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Just as the U.S. and global economies are finally strengthening, they face a new danger: Rocketing oil prices, which topped \$100 a barrel Wednesday.

The U.S. economy can likely absorb \$100 oil and keep expanding, even though gasoline prices would rise further and growth would slow. But it would hurt.

Gasoline for U.S. motorists already costs more than at any point since 2008, despite ample supplies. The national average for a gallon of unleaded was \$3.19 on Wednesday—53 cents more than a year ago. Analysts expect the average to range between \$3.25 and \$3.75 this spring.

Oil prices had been rising for months, but they jumped this week as violence gripped Libya. Analysts say any production declines in Libya could likely be absorbed by other producers like Saudi Arabia. Libyan oil accounts for less than 1 percent of U.S. crude imports.

Still, analysts say concerns about violence in North Africa and Middle East have put a “fear premium” that’s added about \$10 a barrel.

Consumers and businesses would feel pinched by a sustained period of \$100-a-barrel oil—and not just motorists. Stock prices, which have lost more than 2 percent so far this

week, could sink further. That would reduce household wealth and consumer confidence. As fuel costs price rise, so would prices for travel services and products containing plastics.

This month, several airlines tacked on fuel surcharges—extra fees that help cover fuel bills.

Rising oil prices have pushed jet fuel close to \$3 a gallon. Fuel accounts for roughly one-third of the budget for U.S. airlines, up from less than one-fifth a decade ago. Fitch Ratings analyst William Warlick said if jet fuel reaches about \$3.20 a gallon, “the whole industry will be challenged to stay profitable.”

Airlines may soon decide to eliminate some flights and ground older jets to cut fuel consumption, Warlick said. Delta Air Lines has already scaled back plans to add flights this year.

Analysts estimate that over a year, \$100 oil would reduce U.S. economic growth by 0.2 or 0.3 of a percentage point. So rather than grow an estimated 3.7 percent this year, the economy would expand 3.4 percent or 3.5 percent. That would likely mean less hiring and higher unemployment.

The global economy wouldn’t be affected as much. In part, that’s because emerging economies consume less oil, per person, than industrialized countries do. In addition, many

strong yen pressured exporters, whose repatriated profits from abroad decline in value as the yen appreciates. Honda Motor Co. fell 0.9 percent, and Sony Corp. was down 1.1 percent. Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 shed 0.5 percent to 4,823.30. Benchmarks in Singapore and New Zealand also declined.

NY: Wall Street 2010 bonuses estimated at \$20.8B

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Wall Street paid an estimated \$20.8 billion in bonuses to New York City securities industry employees for 2010, the first full year after the national recession officially ended, New York state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli said Wednesday. The number reflects an industry shift toward deferred compensation and higher base salaries, DiNapoli said. “Cash bonuses are down, but that’s not an indication of weakness on Wall Street,” he said. The estimate of bonuses is down 8 percent from \$22.5 billion actually paid in 2009. But it is \$500 million more than DiNapoli’s bonus estimate a year ago. Bonuses extended into March and April last year, beyond the traditional season.

Shaking the markets

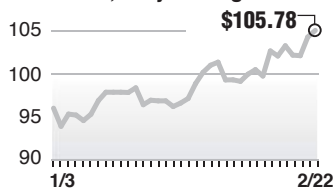
Escalating violence in the Middle East and North Africa is driving oil prices up and stocks down. Daily closing prices since Jan. 1, 2011:

Oil prices

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude traded on the Nymex, daily closing



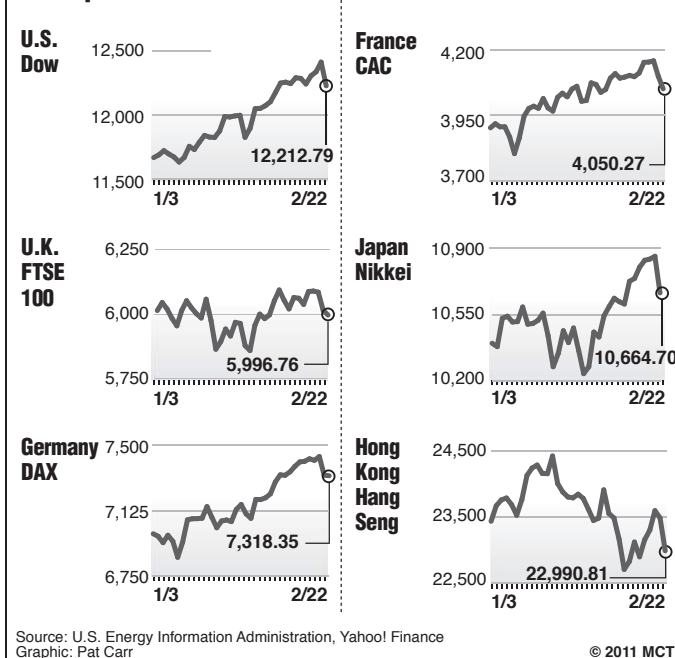
Brent North Sea crude oil traded in London, daily closing



developing countries regulate or subsidize the cost of gas. Global growth would slip about 0.1 percentage point, economists estimate.

But oil prices around \$100 a barrel could threaten European

Stock prices



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Yahoo! Finance
Graphic: Pat Carr

© 2011 MCT

economies, many of which are net importers of oil and gas, haven’t fully recovered from the financial crisis and face heavy debt loads. Spain and Italy, for example, where gas at the pump already goes for about

\$8 a gallon, face years of a slow, grinding recovery. A spike in oil would deal their economies another setback.

Pricier oil would also push up inflation in Europe, where it already exceeds official targets,

and in countries with surging food prices, like China, Brazil and India. Those countries might then have to raise interest rates to cool inflation. Doing so, in turn, would slow growth in Latin America and Asia.

A darker possibility—one that few analysts expect—is that oil prices will keep rising until they reach \$150 or more and then stay there for months. Under that scenario, another recession is possible, economists say.

Gasoline prices would near \$5 a gallon. Consumers would spend much less. So would businesses, which would slash jobs.

“It would nail the economy,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Analytics. “All the benefits of the tax breaks we got in last year’s tax-cut deal would be completely wiped out and then some.”

One reason the United States and other developed countries can still grow with oil at \$100 a barrel is they’ve become more energy-efficient since the oil-price shocks of the 1970s.

Ford to recall 150,000 F-150 pickups over air bags

WASHINGTON (AP)—Under government pressure, Ford Motor Co. said Wednesday it will recall nearly 150,000 F-150 pickup trucks to fix air bags that could deploy without warning, a fraction of the vehicles the government contends should be called back and repaired.

The recall covers trucks from the 2005-2006 model years in the United States and Canada for what the Dearborn, Mich.,

company calls a “relatively low risk” of the air bag deploying inadvertently.

The government, however, has urged Ford to recall 1.3 million F-150s from the 2004-2006 model years, citing 98 injuries from air bags deploying accidentally. The recall is being closely watched because Ford’s F-Series pickup truck is the best-selling vehicle in America.

Ford’s leaders have made safe-

ty a cornerstone of the company’s revitalization, but the truck recall represents the latest safety issue to confront the automaker.

Ford has recalled more than 600,000 Windstar minivans in the U.S. and Canada since August to fix rear axles that can corrode and break, an issue still under investigation by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. During the past decade, Ford recalled more than

10 million vehicles, including the F-Series pickup, to repair a cruise control switch system that was linked to engine fires.

A Transportation Department spokeswoman said the agency was reviewing Ford’s response to see if the F-150 recall was adequate. If the government determines that the recall is too limited, it could seek a rare public hearing to decide whether Ford should widen its safety action.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil prices hit \$100 per barrel

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil hit \$100 per barrel Wednesday for the first time in 2 1/2 years as the unrest in Libya worsened, and gasoline prices in the U.S. climbed to nearly \$3.20 a gallon, the highest level ever for February. West Texas Intermediate crude for April delivery jumped \$2.68, or 2.8 percent, to settle at \$98.10 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Earlier in the day, prices hit triple digits for the first time since Oct. 2, 2008. West Texas Intermediate has soared 18 percent since Valentine’s Day. The national average for a gallon of regular gasoline rose 2.3 cents Wednesday to \$3.194, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. Gas has jumped 8.2 cents per gallon in the past month and \$1.28 in the past year.

Libya unrest keeps Asian shares on edge

TOKYO (AP)—Asian shares were mixed Thursday as surging oil prices, violence in Libya and a weak finish on Wall Street kept markets on edge. Japan’s Nikkei 225 stock average lost 0.7 percent to 10,506.16. A



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (ATCT) PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-11 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing monthly maintenance services for the Tower, the Base Building and its surroundings. The proposal package which includes the scope of work, selection criteria, and draft agreement will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Monday, February 21, 2011. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: “Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport”. One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA’s requirements. Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ **EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO**
Executive Director
Date: Feb. 18, 2011



Vacancy Announcement PAIMI Advisory Council Member

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. (NMPASI) wishes to announce vacancies for the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Advisory Council (PAC).

The PAIMI program is being administered by NMPASI, a non-profit organization. The Council’s purpose is to “advise the PAIMI program on policies and priorities to be carried out in protecting and advocating for the rights of individuals with mental illness.”

The council is comprised of eight volunteer members who serve four year terms. The ideal candidate will help promote the organization’s mission, program, and activities. The council’s responsibilities include but not limited to

- Attend regular council meetings, four times annually;
- Provide independent advice and recommendations to the system;
- Work jointly with the governing board in developing policies and priorities; and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meeting on behalf of the PAIMI program

Currently, the Council needs to fill positions for the following categories:

- (1) Individual who is a recipient/former recipient of mental health services;
- (2) mental health service provider;
- (3) mental health professional; and
- (4) Individual from the public knowledgeable about mental illness.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes’ to Melrosa Rebuénog, PAIMI Chair, via the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. / P.O. Box 503529 / Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver to the NMPASI office located in Gualo Rai. All letters of interests must be received no later than 5:00 PM on March 1, 2011.

For more information, please feel free to contact the NMPASI’s Executive Director, James Rayphand at 235-7273/4 (voice), or 235-7278 (tty).

Nation

Obama sharpens critique of Libya amid wider unrest

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration on Wednesday sharpened its condemnation of a bloody crackdown on Libyan opposition demonstrators as it broadened its outreach to government officials, dissidents, rights activists and youth in other Arab nations across a Middle East that is seething with unrest.

Amid the tumult rocking the region, Obama condemned the violence in Libya in the sharpest terms Washington has yet used and directed his administration to prepare a full range of options, including possible sanctions that could freeze the assets and ban travel to the U.S. by Libyan officials. He said he was sending Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to Geneva for international talks aimed at stopping the bloodshed and formulating a unified global message to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

"The suffering and bloodshed is outrageous and it is unacceptable," Obama told reporters after meeting with Clinton at the White House. "So are threats and orders to shoot peaceful

protesters and further punish the people of Libya. These actions violate international norms and every standard of common decency. This violence must stop."

Obama did not, however, lay out specific measures he would

take if Gadhafi did not respond to the appeals. In part, U.S. officials said, this was because of fears that Gadhafi might order reprisals against Americans and other foreigners still in Libya if threatened with sanctions. A

ferry carrying 35 U.S. diplomats and family members along with an unknown number of private Americans was to have left Tripoli for the Mediterranean island of Malta on Wednesday but was delayed

due to poor weather.

Fearing an anti-American backlash elsewhere from protesters who toppled two long-time U.S. allies and are threatening other friendly Arab regimes, Obama urged the region to embrace reforms. His comments signaled the administration is seeking to align itself with reformists in post-revolt Tunisia and Egypt and to be seen as a force for democratic change in Bahrain and other Persian Gulf states to blunt a possible rise of extremism and preserve U.S. influence there.

"Even as we are focused on the urgent situation in Libya," Obama said, "our efforts continue to address the events taking place elsewhere, including how the international community can most effectively support the peaceful transition to democracy in both Tunisia and in Egypt."

Before Obama spoke, Clinton participated in an online discussion with young Egyptians who spearheaded the rebellion that ousted President Hosni Mubarak, a major recipient of U.S. aid over the past three decades. Her Internet appearance came as the administration's

third-ranking diplomat visited Tunis after a several-day stop in Cairo and the top U.S. diplomat for the Middle East opened a five-nation tour of the Persian Gulf. U.S. Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is already in the Gulf region visiting U.S. allies.

Mullen's trip along with the dispatch of Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs William Burns to Egypt and Tunisia and Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Jeffrey Feltman to Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates come as Washington tries to prevent a rise in anti-U.S. sentiment in the region.

While Mullen is concentrating on military alliances, Burns and Feltman were shoring up relations with government officials and affirming the U.S. commitment "to our longstanding partnerships in the region as well as universal human rights, freedom of expression and the promotion of democratic principles," the State Department said.

They were also reiterating that recent events clarified the urgent need to respond to popular demands for reform and offering U.S. assistance in doing so.



President Barack Obama, left, speaks about the situation in Libya with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in the Grand Foyer of the White House, Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011, in Washington.

Hawaii's governor signs civil unions into law

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie signed same-sex civil unions into law Wednesday, granting gay and lesbian couples the same state rights as married partners.

Civil unions in the Rainbow State would start Jan. 1, 2012, making Hawaii the seventh state to permit civil unions or similar legal recognitions for gay couples. Five other states and the District of Columbia allow same-sex marriage.

The new law comes after 20 years of court fights, protest rallies and passionate public debate in a state that has long

been a gay rights battleground.

The Democratic governor's signature makes it the first law he's enacted since he was elected in November. The bill passed the state Legislature last week.

Just seven months ago, former Republican Gov. Linda Lingle vetoed a similar bill because she said it was same-sex marriage by another name.

But civil unions have been heading toward passage since Abercrombie defeated two gubernatorial candidates who opposed them, and only one state legislator who supported

them lost re-election.

Hawaii, already known as one of the nation's premier locations for destination weddings and honeymoons, could see an influx of gay and lesbian visitors hoping to have their partnerships solemnized on sandy, windswept beaches, according to tourism businesses.

Arguments over civil unions and gay marriage have long divided the state, which nearly became the first in the nation to legalize gay marriage in 1993 because of a state Supreme Court ruling.

But voters overwhelmingly

passed the nation's first "defense of marriage" constitutional amendment five years later, which resulted in a law banning gay marriage but leaving the door open for civil unions.

Since then, 29 other states also have enacted defense of marriage amendments.

Opponents of civil unions say the partnerships could lead to same-sex marriage, likely through a court challenge based on the argument that gay couples aren't truly being treated equally unless they're allowed to marry.

Government drops defense of anti-gay-marriage law

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama ordered his administration on Wednesday to stop defending the constitutionality of a federal law that bans recognition of gay marriage, a policy reversal that could have major implications for the rights and benefits of gay couples and reignite an emotional debate for the 2012 presidential campaign.

Obama still is "grappling" with his personal views on whether gays should be allowed to marry but has long opposed the federal law as unnecessary and unfair, said spokesman Jay Carney.

First word of the change came not from the White House but from the Justice Department. Attorney General Eric Holder announced

that Obama had concluded the 15-year-old Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, was legally indefensible.

The decision was immediately welcomed by gay rights organizations and vilified by those on the other side. Some Democrats in Congress praised the decision, while it drew criticism from some Republicans and the office of their leader, House Speaker John Boehner, all surely a preview of coming political debate over the latest development in the long-running national conversation about gay rights.

The outcome of that debate could have enormous impact because federal laws and regulations confer more than a thousand rights or benefits on those who are married, most

involving taxpayer money—Social Security survivors' benefits, family and medical leave, equal compensation as federal employees and immigration rights.

"Much of the legal landscape has changed in the 15 years since Congress passed DOMA," Holder said in a statement explaining the decision.

As well, the social landscape has changed.

Since the law was passed in 1996, five states and the District of Columbia have approved gay marriage, and others allow civil unions. An Associated Press-National Constitution Center Poll conducted last August found 52 percent of Americans saying the federal government should give legal recognition

to marriages between couples of the same sex.

Thirty states have constitutional amendments banning gay marriage. Same-sex marriage is legal in Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont and Washington, D.C.

The White House framed Obama's decision as one brought on by a legal deadline in one of several federal court cases challenging the constitutionality of the law which defines marriage as only between a man and a woman.

But Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., speculated Obama's decision was motivated more by political considerations: "It's only in the run-up to re-election that he's suddenly changed his mind."

ACROSS THE NATION

21,000 had whooping cough last year, CDC says

ATLANTA (AP)—More than 21,000 people got whooping cough last year, many of them children and teens. That's the highest number since 2005 and among the worst years in more than half a century, U.S. health officials said Wednesday. They are puzzled by the sharp rise in cases. The vaccine against whooping cough is highly effective in children, and vaccination rates for kids are good. The disease is very contagious and in rare cases can be fatal, especially for babies too young to be vaccinated. Whooping cough starts like a cold but leads to severe coughing that can last for weeks. California appeared to be the hardest-hit state last year, with state health officials reporting more than 8,300 cases, including the deaths of 10 babies.

Most traveled space shuttle ready for final launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—After 143 million miles and nearly a year all told in orbit, space shuttle Discovery is poised to blast off Thursday one last time. It promises to be a sentimental journey for the six astronauts assigned to the mission as well as the supporting cast of thousands who have painstakingly prepped the world's most traveled rocketship. Once more, NASA's fleet leader is paving a new road, one

that leads to shuttle retirement and an uncertain future for America's space program. When Discovery returns from the International Space Station, it will be the first of the three surviving shuttles to be decommissioned this year and shipped off to a museum. The Smithsonian Institution has first dibs on this one.

Kidnap charges added against dad of 3 missing boys

ADRIAN, Mich. (AP)—Prosecutors have added charges of kidnapping and unlawful imprisonment against the father of three boys from southeastern Michigan who've been missing since Thanksgiving. Police in Morenci, near the Ohio border, are treating the case as a homicide investigation. Thirty-nine-year-old John Skelton of Morenci has said he doesn't know the whereabouts of 9-year-old Andrew, 7-year-old Alexander and 5-year-old Tanner, who were last seen with him. He told authorities he gave them to a group called United Foster Outreach and another called Underground Sanctuaries, organizations police say they can't locate. Skelton already is jailed on parental kidnapping charges. A hearing on the new charges is scheduled March 9. Public defender John Glaser tells The Daily Telegram he needs time to review new police evidence before meeting with Skelton on what comes next.

Asia

NZ earthquake toll at 76 dead, 238 missing

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP)—The sister and brother sat huddled Wednesday on sodden grass, staring at the smoldering remains of an office tower that collapsed with their mother inside.

They hadn't heard from Donna Manning since a powerful earthquake tore through one of New Zealand's largest cities a day earlier, killing at least 76 people and leaving 238 missing. Still, there was hope.

"My mum is superwoman, she'd do anything," Manning's 18-year-old daughter Lizzy said, tears streaming down her face.

Just then, a police officer approached and knelt before Lizzy and her 15-year-old brother Kent in the rain. "I have some horrible news..." the officer began.

The teens' faces crumpled, and their father wrapped them in an embrace as the officer gently broke the news that their mother was presumed dead along with everyone else trapped inside the building.

It was a dark moment that was repeated many times over Wednesday as rescuers searched for any signs of life in the twisted rubble of Christchurch. Prime Minister John Key declared the quake a national disaster and analysts estimated its cost at up to \$12 billion.

Hundreds of troops, police and emergency workers raced against time and aftershocks that threatened to collapse more buildings. They picked gingerly through the ruins, poking heat-seeking cameras into gaps between tumbles of bricks and sending sniffer dogs over concrete slabs.

Teams rushed in from Australia, the United States, Britain, Japan and elsewhere in Asia, along with a military field hospital and workers to help repair power, water and phone lines that were damaged in all corners of the city of some 350,000 people.

The news was grim at the Canterbury Television building, a seven-story concrete-

and-glass structure that housed the regional TV network where Manning had worked as a morning anchorwoman. An English language school used by young visitors from Japan and South Korea was also located there.

The heavy concrete floors lay piled atop one another Wednesday, its central stairwell tower still standing, but leaning precariously.

"We don't believe this site is now survivable," police operations commander Inspector Dave Lawry told reporters. He said rescuers were shifting to sites that were less dangerous and where there was more hope for survivors.

Canterbury TV chairman Nick Smith said 15 of his employees were still missing inside the collapsed building. Also among the missing were 10 Japanese language students from a group of at least 23 students and teachers who were believed in the building, said Teppei Asano, a Japanese official monitoring the situation.

China charges subversion for protest repostings

BEIJING (AP)—China filed subversion charges against Internet users who reposted a call for protests as the authoritarian government enforced its crackdown against any Middle East-style democracy movement, activists said.

In addition to well-known activists who apparently remained in custody after being taken away ahead of the planned protests on Sunday, at least three people were detained on charges of "inciting subversion of state power," according to the Hong Kong-based Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy. China often uses the vaguely worded charge to lock up outspoken government critics.

In a nod to social stability concerns, China's Vice President Xi Jinping on Wednesday urged greater outreach by the ruling Communist Party to handle issues related to educa-

tion, employment, health care and housing.

This is to resolve social conflicts, maintain social stability, and promote social harmony," Xi said, echoing remarks over the weekend by president and party leader Hu Jintao.

State media also quoted a top government adviser as dismissing the possibility of a Middle East-style revolution in China as "ridiculous and unrealistic."

"It's fair to say that many problems are being solved," Zhao Qizheng was quoted as saying by the Xinhua News Agency.

The detentions indicated Beijing would not tolerate any dissent, even by people merely reposting information gleaned from overseas websites.

Liang Haiyi, an unemployed 35-year-old woman in the northeast city of Harbin, was taken away Saturday after put-

ting information about the call to protest on Chinese websites or chatrooms, said lawyer Liang Xiaojun, who was not representing Liang but had spoken to her ex-husband about the case.

She was questioned and taken away in handcuffs, and her ex-husband has received an official notice saying she has been charged with subversion, said the lawyer, who is not related.

"I don't think she's broken any law, she only reposted someone else's writings on the Chinese Internet and it wasn't her own writing," Liang Xiaojun said. "Anyone overseas can see these materials."

Also detained for spreading word of the planned protest online were Hua Chunhui, from Wuxi city in eastern China, and Chen Wei from Suining city in the southwest, the Hong Kong rights group said a statement Wednesday.

that seemed unimaginable before 1986.

SKorea, China worry over NKorea's nuclear program

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The foreign ministers of South Korea and China expressed worries Wednesday about North Korea's recently disclosed uranium enrichment program, which could give it a second way to make atomic bombs, a South Korean official said. The foreign ministers agreed to consult closely on how to deal with the North's uranium program, a South Korean Foreign Ministry official said on condition of anonymity because of department policy. Efforts to deal with North Korea's nuclear capability took on renewed urgency in November when a visiting American scientist was shown a uranium enrichment facility. South Korea says that violates a past international disarmament-for-aid deal and U.N. resolutions.

World

Gadhafi hold whittled away as Libya revolt spreads

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—The scope of Moammar Gadhafi's control was whittled away Wednesday as major Libyan cities and towns closer to the capital fell to the rebellion against his rule. In the east, now all but broken away, the opposition vowed to "liberate" Tripoli, where the Libyan leader is holed up with a force of militiamen roaming the streets and tanks guarding the outskirts.

In a further sign of Gadhafi's faltering hold, two air force pilots—one from the leader's own tribe—parachuted out of their warplane and let it crash into the eastern Libyan desert rather than follow orders to bomb an opposition-held city.

International momentum was building for action to punish Gadhafi's regime for the bloody crackdown it has unleashed against the uprising that began Feb. 15.

President Barack Obama said the suffering and bloodshed in Libya "is outrageous and it is unacceptable," and he directed his administration to prepare a full range of options, including possible sanctions that could freeze the assets and ban travel to the U.S. by Libyan officials.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy raised the possibility of the European Union cutting off economic ties.

Another proposal gaining some traction was for the United Nations to declare a no-fly zone over Libya to prevent it using warplanes to hit protesters. U.N. High Commissioner

for Human Rights Navi Pillay said that if reports of such strikes are confirmed, "there's an immediate need for that level of protection."

Italy's Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said estimates of some 1,000 people killed in the violence in Libya were "credible," although he stressed information about casualties was incomplete. The New York-based Human Rights Watch has put the death toll at nearly 300, according to a partial count.

In Tripoli, Gadhafi's stronghold, protest organizers called for new rallies Thursday and Friday, raising the potential for a more bloody confrontation.

Militiamen and Gadhafi supporters—a mix of Libyans and foreign African fighters bused in—roamed the capital's main streets, called up Tuesday night by the Libyan leader in a fist-pounding speech in which he vowed to fight to the death. The gunmen fired weapons in the air, chanting "Long live Gadhafi," and waved green flags. With a steady rain, streets were largely empty, residents said.

In many neighborhoods, residents set up watch groups to keep militiamen out, barricading streets with concrete blocks, metal and rocks, and searching those trying to enter, a Tripoli activist said.

Gadhafi's residence at Tripoli's Aziziya Gates was guarded by loyalists along with a line of armed militiamen in vehicles, some masked, he said. The radio station build-

ing downtown was also heavily fortified. In one western neighborhood, security forces stormed several homes and arrested three or four people, a witness said, while tanks were deployed on the eastern outskirts, witnesses in at least one neighborhood said.

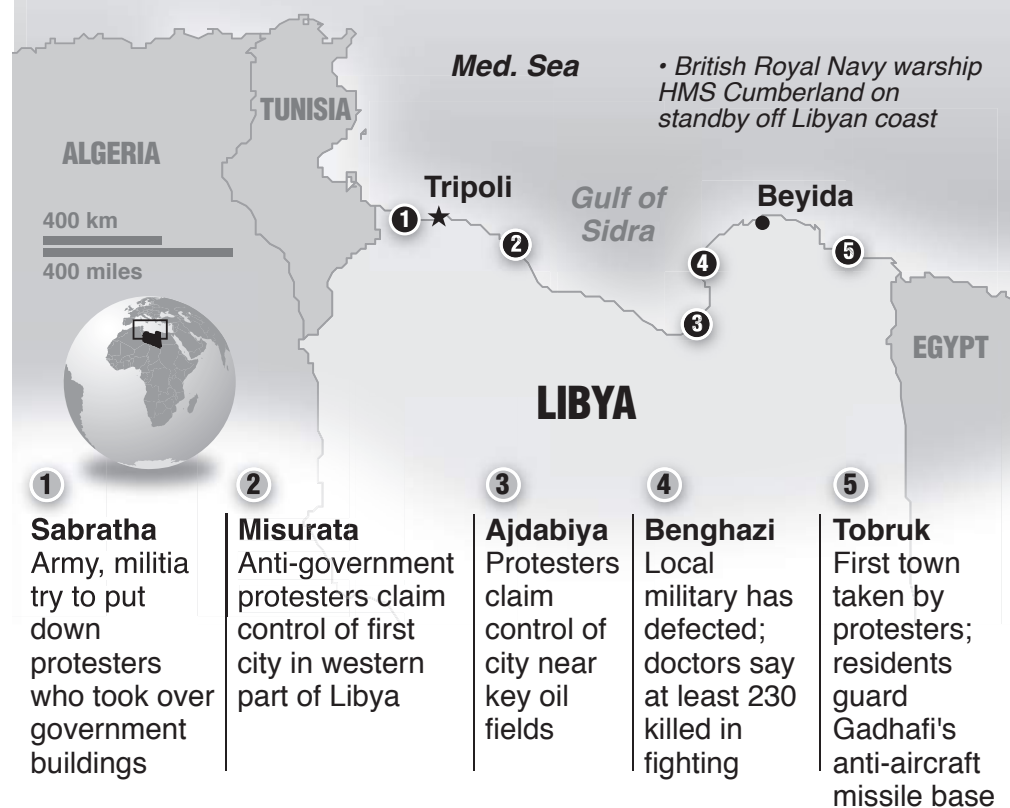
"Mercenaries are everywhere with weapons. You can't open a window or door. Snipers hunt people," said another resident, who said she had spent the night in her home awake hearing gunfire outside. "We are under siege, at the mercy of a man who is not a Muslim."

But below the surface, protesters were organizing, said the activist. At night, they fan out and spray-paint anti-Gadhafi graffiti or set fires near police stations, chanting, "The people want the ouster of the regime," before running at the approach of militiamen, he said. The Tripoli residents, like other witnesses around the country, spoke on condition of anonymity because of fear of retaliation.

In opposition-controlled Benghazi, the eastern city where the uprising began, residents held a mass rally outside the city's main courthouse, vowing to support protests in the capital, said Farag al-Warfali, a banker. They also called a one-day fast in solidarity with them. Afterward, young men went into the courthouse to register to obtain weapons, which had been looted from police stations and military bases and then turned over to the city's new rulers, he said.

Uprising spreads in Libya

Protesters vow to take control of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's stronghold Tripoli as rebels hold the eastern part of the nation.



ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippines recalls '86 revolt with eye on Mideast

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—From the fist-pumping crowds to the anguished dictators, the pro-reform revolts reshaping Arab history resemble the 1986 Philippine uprising that booted a strongman 25 years ago. But the similarity ends with the killing of protesters from Tunisia to Libya. The four-day "people power" revolt a quarter century ago that Filipinos commemorate this week saw multitudes of civilians and rosary-clutching nuns and priests mounting a human barricade against tanks and troops to bring down dictator Ferdinand Marcos with little bloodshed as the world watched in awe. The democratic triumph has been hailed as a harbinger of change in authoritarian regimes in Asia and beyond. Since then, democratic revolutions have ended autocracies and military rule in South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan and Indonesia in relatively peaceful feats

Off The Wall

Brazil woman finds gator behind couch after flood

SAO PAULO (AP)—After floodwaters receded from her home, a Brazilian woman was shocked to find a most unwelcome house guest: a 5-foot (1.5-meter) alligator lying tamely in the living room as

her 3-year-old son petted the reptile's head.

The animal apparently was washed inside by the high water Monday night, said Luiz Claudio Farias, a captain of firefighters in the north-central

city of Parauapebas.

When the woman went to clean up the following day, she saw the boy playing with something behind the couch, Farias said. It turned out to be a gator.

"She snatched the boy away and called us," he said.

Farias said it was lucky the reptile apparently wasn't in the mood for a meal: "If he was hungry, he could have seriously hurt or even killed

the boy."

Firefighters trapped the alligator and took it to a nearby environmental preserve, where they set it free.

"Cities in this region were built very near rivers and the

rain forests, which is why it is not uncommon to see animals like alligators and snakes entering people's houses," Farias said.

He declined to identify the woman or her son.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Malaysia police nab 3 for stealing 725,000 condoms

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysian police have arrested three suspects involved in the heist of some 725,000 condoms, which have not yet been found. Mohamad Shukri Dahlan, the police chief of Malaysia's northern Perak state, says the heist was "an inside job." He said Friday the suspects work for the firm responsible for transporting the condoms from the factory to the port, where they were to be shipped to Japan. Sagami Rubber Industries Co., one of Japan's biggest condom makers, said 85,000 boxes of ultra-thin condoms vanished last month in the heist. The merchandise was worth \$1.5 million. The suspects intended to sell the con-

doms in Malaysia, but Mohamad Shukri said they had probably not succeeded.

Big cleaning bill for missing snake on Mass. train

BOSTON (AP)—A woman whose 3-foot-long snake slithered away from her in a Boston subway car and hid there for nearly a month has gotten a hefty cleaning bill. Transit officials want Allston, Mass., resident Melissa Moorhouse to pay \$650 to cover the costs of disinfecting and sanitizing the Red Line train to protect passengers from germs such as salmonella that may have been left by a boa constrictor named Penelope. Moorhouse had traveled with the snake around her neck and lost it between stations Jan. 6. The snake was spotted on the train earlier this

month by a commuter. The Boston Globe reported Tuesday the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority says some subway riders wrote in with health concerns. Moorhouse says she'll pay more attention the next time she takes the snake out in public.

Stop or we'll schuss: Wyoming uphill skier busted

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP)—A 78-year-old retired doctor was handcuffed and hauled away on a toboggan for skiing uphill in Wyoming, but he won't face charges. Roland Fleck of Jackson was arrested the morning of Feb. 5 after refusing ski patrollers' orders to stop. Jackson Hole Resort officials say avalanche danger and the presence of grooming machines made it unsafe. Skiers can

get uphill with snow-gripping "skins" on their skis, among other methods. The Jackson Hole News & Guide says Fleck was jailed on charges of trespass, interference, unsafe skiing and theft of services. Resort officials say they won't press charges because Fleck's removal resolved their complaint. Sheriff Jim Whalen says he sees no need for prosecution. Fleck's son, attorney Dan Fleck, says his father did nothing wrong and the resort should change policies.

Law to protect German kids' right to noise

BERLIN (AP)—Children of Germany take heart—it may soon be perfectly legal to make noise. Germany is so desperate to encourage people to have more children that the government is proposing

a bill allowing citizens under six to laugh, shout and play at any volume. Germany is a land of many rules, especially about noise. The government's move comes after a series of lawsuits about children and noise, and a recent call from a senior citizens' chapter of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives, who sought to ban kindergartens from residential areas because they are too loud. The government said Wednesday the proposed law would exempt children from strict regulations on noise limits, which force construction sites to stand idle for hours at midday and prohibit mowing lawns on Sunday.

NY agents to testify about personal spousal calls

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge

has ordered federal agents to testify in New York City about their recordings of conversations between an insider trading suspect and his wife after a defense lawyer complained the calls were of an "intensely personal nature." Judge Richard Sullivan on Wednesday issued an order requiring agents who eavesdropped on calls between Craig Drimal and his wife to testify at a March hearing. He also says he wants to hear from the prosecutor who supervised them. Defense lawyer Janeanne Murray is seeking to toss out all recordings of her client on the grounds the government violated his privacy rights in a blatant and extensive way. Drimal has pleaded not guilty in what prosecutors say is the biggest hedge fund insider trading case in history.

Fifth Year Death Anniversary

Remembering.....

Isidro Atalig Sablan

LOVINGLY KNOWN AS
"SID"



Five years ago, our beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother, in remembrance of his passing away, we the family invite our relatives and friends to join us as we begin the traditional nine days of daily masses beginning February 21st through March 1st, 2011 at 6:00 am at the Kristo-Rai church.

On the final day, Tuesday, March 1, 2011, breakfast will be served immediately after the mass at the Kristo-Rai Social Hall.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence will forever be appreciated.

"From ANGIE, children and the family..."

40

years ago, our dearly beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother,



In Memoriam

*Concepcion (Conchita)
Mafnas Palacios*

Was called by her Creator.

We, the family of the late Concepcion Mafnas Palacios would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the anniversary of our beloved's passing unto eternal life.

Daily mass will be offered at San Jose Church at 6:00a.m everyday from February 18, 2011 to February 25, 2011; on February 20, mass will be offered at 7:30am. On the ninth day, February 26, 2011 the anniversary mass will be offered at 6:00a.m. at San Jose Church, followed immediately with the appreciation breakfast to be served at San Jose Church Social Hall.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence are sincerely appreciated.

The Family (Tik, Joseph(Pal), Ignacio(Doug), Velma, Frank Jr.)

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ALFRED FLORES FLEMING

Passed away on Wednesday morning of February 21, 2011 at the age of 89.

A humble man guided by his deep faith and commitment to family and community; battled many years of illness for his one true love, friend, companion and confidant; his wife; "Liang". He lived a simple life.

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his faithful and loving wife, Rosalia "Liang" Aldan Fleming

Children: **Anuncia** A. Reyes, **James** A. and Constanza Mendiola Fleming, **Ellen** F. Ikehara, **Michael** A. and Esther Sablan Fleming, **Donald** James Power, **Thomas** A. Fleming, **Deborah** Fleming and Kerat Mony, **Felipe** A. and Nora Manglona Aquino, **Manuela** A. and Rodel Manlulu

25 grandchildren, 49 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

He will also be missed by caring family members: Daisy F. Manglona, Lydia F. Black, Leonora F. Bordallo, Rudy F. Fleming, Julita A. and Francisco C. Castro, Helena A. Diaz, Maria "Manting" A. and Antonio R. Sablan, Pauline A. Corliss, Bernadita DLR. Aldan, Margarita A. Aldan and Amparo and Jose Tenorio

He is also survived by numerous cousins, nieces and nephews

In his life, he now joins his:

Parents: †Henry Gordon and †Consolacion Flores Fleming

Parents-In-Laws: †Joaquin Crisostimo and Manuela Concepcion Aldan

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws: †Albert F. and †Consolacion Ayuyu Fleming, †George F. and †Juanita M Fleming, †Thomas F. and †Ursula Untalan Fleming, †David "Kondo" Sandbergen, †Jose Manglona, †Rodney Bordallo, †Gene Black, †Alfonso Diaz, †Francisco C. Aldan, †Ignacio C. and †Merced DLG. Aldan, †Teresita A. and †Justo L. Sanchez, †Tomas C. and †Mariana S. Aldan, †Engracia "Aya" A. and †Dewayne Johnson Sr.

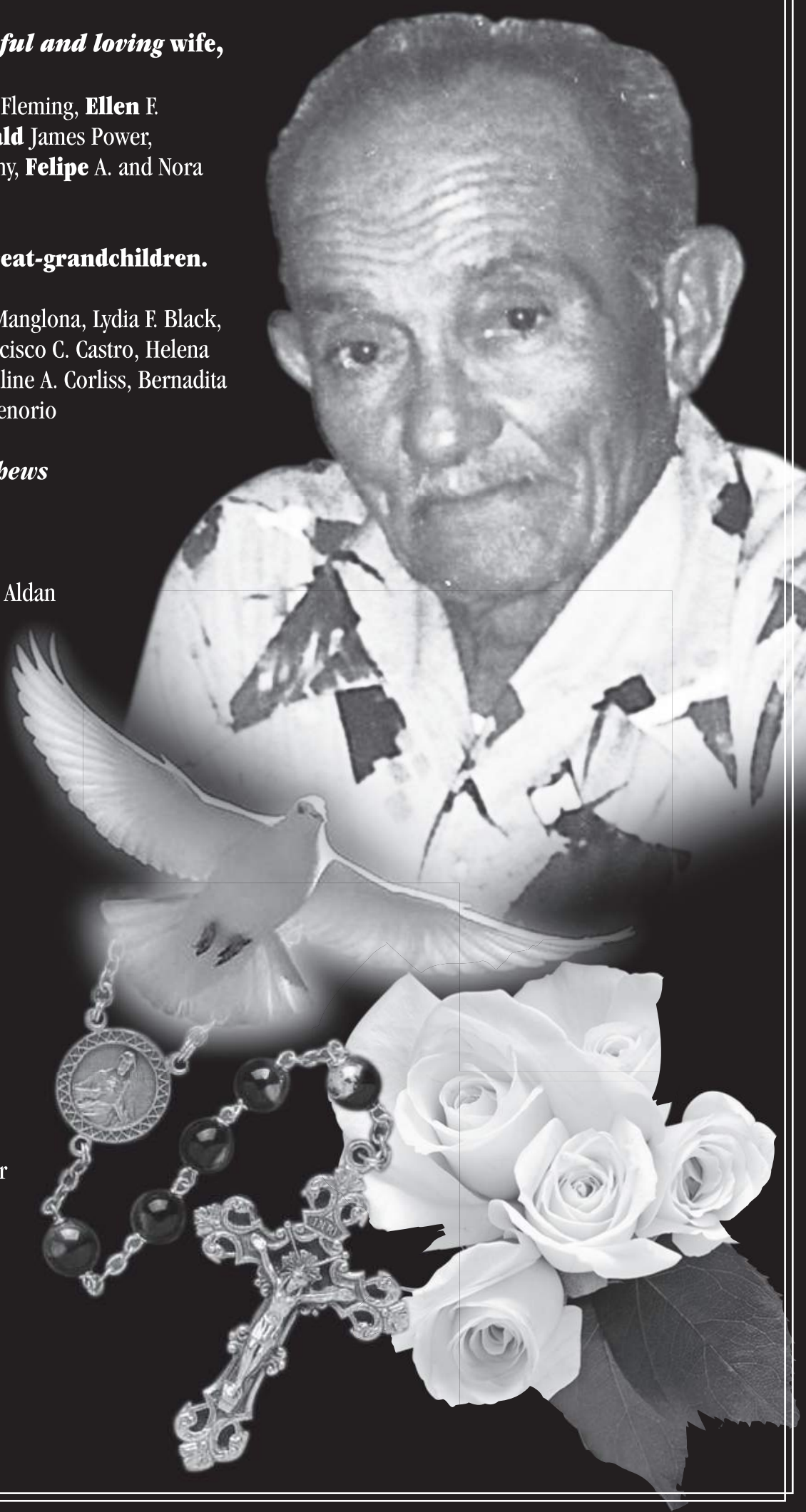
Son, Daughter and In-Laws: †Joaquin A. Fleming, †Carmen A. Aquino, †Consolacion "Connie" F. Power, †Dwight Ikehara, †Alfonso S. Reyes

Holy Rosary is being said nightly in Tinian at the San Jose Church after each evening Mass. Mass of Intentions is being offered in the morning at Kristo Rai Church and each evening at Saint Jude Church on Saipan.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, March 02, 2011 at Tinian, CNMI. His remains will be escorted from Tinian Health Center to San Jose Church in Tinian at 8:00AM. Responso Service will be at 9:00AM followed by the Holy Rosary at 9:30AM. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00AM followed by Interment Services at Tinian Public Cemetery.

Please Join Us In Prayers

**Rosalia Aldan Fleming
Children and Families**



Science & Technology

The i(Pad)s of March: Apple plans tablet event

NEW YORK (AP)—March Madness could take on a whole new meaning if Apple gives the world another iPad next week.

Apple Inc. is expected to unveil the second generation of its wildly successful media tablet, widening its head start against competitors just starting to sell their first tablet computers.

The Cupertino, Calif.-based company e-mailed invitations to a media event in San Francisco Wednesday that show a calendar page with the corner peeling away to reveal an iPad underneath. The large “2” on the calendar page denotes the event’s March 2 date, but is also a hint that Apple is about to announce the follow-up to the original iPad.

The iPad, about the size of a large book, has been likened to an overgrown iPhone or iPod Touch, as it is powered by similar software and can run the same applications, or “apps.”

But it has a bigger screen that makes reading e-mails, surfing the Web and watching movies easier on the eyes. With a starting price of \$499, it’s less expensive than many computers and, at 1.5 pounds, it also weighs less. Unlike small, inexpensive laptops such as netbooks, the iPad turns

on instantly, so people don’t have to wait through a sluggish boot-up. And the iPad also lasts about 10 hours unplugged, making it ideal for travelers and other people on the go.

Apple sold more than 15 million iPads in its first nine months on sale, including 7.3 million to holiday shoppers during the October-December quarter—about a million more for the quarter than analysts were expecting.

Since the iPad’s launch, other consumer electronics makers

have been scrambling to develop tablets of their own. For example, Samsung Electronics Co. began selling the Galaxy Tab last year, and Motorola Mobility Inc.’s Xoom tablet goes on sale this week. Many of these new tablets run Google Inc.’s Android software.

The iPad is the first tablet computer to win over mainstream consumers. A decade earlier, PC makers were selling tablets that ran Windows, the same operating systems found

on most full-fledged PCs. While some businesses bought them, they never sold well among consumers. These tablets were heavier and had shorter battery lives. They were also more difficult to use as touch-screen devices, as Windows was meant to be used with a mouse and keyboard. Apple’s iPad software, meanwhile, was designed from the start to be touched.

As usual, Apple has not said anything about the highly anticipated next version of the

iPad, leaving rumors to swirl unchecked online. Some bloggers have speculated that the new iPad will have a front-facing camera, which would allow people to hold video chats using services such as Skype. If that were the case, its design would more closely match the iPhone 4, which went on sale last June with a front-facing camera and Apple’s own video chatting software, called FaceTime.

Others have speculated that the new iPad will be thinner and lighter than the original, and will come with a bigger

built-in speaker.

Also Wednesday, Apple shareholders rejected a proposal that called for the company to disclose a succession plan for its chief executive. The rejection came a month after Apple CEO Steve Jobs went on an indefinite medical leave for unspecified problems—an absence that could be related to his previous bout with pancreatic cancer or his 2009 liver transplant. Apple announced the preliminary vote on the non-binding proposal at its annual shareholders meeting, but did not provide a breakdown.



AP
This Nov. 26, 2010 file photo shows an iPad. Apple Inc. is expected to unveil the second generation of its wildly successful media tablet.

Turning pdf files into Word docs

By NOAH MATTHEWS
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Let’s hear it for software that lives up to its name. Free-pdf-to-word (www.free-pdf-to-word.com) is, as its name boldly states, a simple, easy-to-use program for taking universal pdf files and turning them into Word documents.

Erasing self from Google is not easy

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: How does a person delete entries in their own name that are currently posted on Google?—Rebecca Lindquist, St. Michael, Minn.

ANSWER: There’s no single easy way to erase your presence on Google.

To prevent your name from showing up in Google search results of non-Google Web pages, ask the owner of those pages to remove it.

To delete your own post on Google’s blogs, see <http://www.tinyurl.com/4zhv541>.

Deleting your name from someone else’s Google blog posts is harder. Google won’t delete “personal attacks or alleged defamation, parody or satire of individuals, distasteful imagery or language, or political or social commentary” without a court order.

But Google sometimes deletes posts involving hate against specific groups, pornography, dangerous and illegal activity, online crime or impersonation. To report these behaviors, see <http://www.tinyurl.com/nkbacv>.

Q: I’ve seen TV commercials for software found at “Max-MySpeed.com” that allegedly cures a slow computer. Could this, or competing programs, be effective for our Dell 8250 with a Pentium 4 (speed 2.53 gigahertz) 512 megabytes of memory and a 120 gigabyte hard drive?—Geoff King, Otawa

A: This type of program, which cleans up malicious or

advertising software, can modestly improve PC speed. But it can’t make up for the fact that your PC was introduced in 2002, and as a result runs more slowly when it uses newer software for things like Web browsing or virus protection.

I could go on, and often do, but when you have found what you are looking for, all the rest is commentary, and who needs that.

advertising software, can modestly improve PC speed. But it can’t make up for the fact that your PC was introduced in 2002, and as a result runs more slowly when it uses newer software for things like Web browsing or virus protection.

If you want to see how much you can speed up your PC, there are many cleaning software programs at <http://www.tinyurl.com/5ubdetu>. In addition, I’ve been recommending the free software at Malwarebytes.org.

You also might make your PC run a little faster by adding more Random Access Memory (RAM). But I question whether it’s worth the investment of \$80 to \$160 to add a gigabyte of RAM (see tinyurl.com/5fopav) when a new and much faster desktop PC costs less than \$400.

Q: Recently I’ve been unable to delete messages from the in-box of my Microsoft Outlook Express 2003 e-mail program. Instead, I have to manually move them to the junk mail folder. How can I fix this problem?—Frank Domurad, White Bear Lake

A: You can solve it by getting rid of the troublesome “deleted items.dbx” file. For directions, see <http://www.tinyurl.com/d9jg45>.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; e-mail: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

First Year Death Anniversary

In Loving Memory of Our Beloved,

**Juanita
Mendiola
Fleming**

We the Children and families, of the late Juanita Mendiola Fleming would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first year anniversary of our beloved Mother’s passing unto eternal life.

Mass of Intention will be celebrated daily at St. Jude Church in Koblerville at 6:00PM beginning on Monday, February 21, 2011 thru Monday, February 28, 2011, except on Sunday, February 27, 2011
Mass will be celebrated at 10:00AM at St. Jude Church.

On the final day Tuesday, March 1, 2011, Mass will be celebrated at 6:00AM at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Breakfast will be served immediately after Mass at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall.

Your Presence, Thoughts, and Prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you and Si Yu’us Ma’ase

The Family

Life & Style

Judge tells Lohan day of reckoning coming soon

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge on Wednesday gave Lindsay Lohan roughly two weeks to decide if she will fight or take a plea deal in a felony grand theft case, but either decision could send the troubled starlet back behind bars.

Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz told Lohan he would sentence her to jail if she accepted a plea deal involving the theft of a \$2,500 necklace from an upscale jewelry store.

"If you plead in front of me, if this case is resolved in front of me, you are going to jail," Schwartz said. "Period."

Lohan, 24, has pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Rejecting the deal would trigger a hearing during which prosecutors would present some of their evidence to another judge. Schwartz said that judge would sentence Lohan for a probation violation if she determined Lohan should stand trial.

That could mean Lohan is



Lindsay Lohan, left, appears in Los Angeles Superior Court with her attorney Shawn Chapman Holley, where a judge is to decide whether an allegation that the actress stole a \$2,500 necklace can be resolved without going to trial, Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011.

sentence to jail even before the theft case is tried.

Schwartz has said he thinks the actress violated her probation in a 2007 drunken driving case, and two other judges have warned

Lohan she faced a return to jail if she got into trouble again.

That was before police began investigating the "Mean Girls" star last month after the necklace was reported miss-

ing from the store in the Venice area of Los Angeles. The necklace was given to detectives by an unidentified Lohan associate before police could serve a search warrant.

Wearing high-waisted white pants and a low-cut black top, Lohan told Schwartz she understood her options. She left the courtroom wearing sunglasses and clutching her mother's hand.

Prosecutors gave Lohan's attorney Shawn Holley a copy of surveillance video from the jewelry store and police reports in the case. The potential evidence will now be reviewed by Lohan and Holley, who must decide how to proceed before the actress returns to court on March 10.

Schwartz told the actress he was treating her like any other defendant and wanted her to know precisely what she was facing.

"I want you to get on with your life," Schwartz said.

He said he doubted Lohan would take the plea deal, which prosecutors declined to discuss after the hearing.

Lohan has lived with the near-constant prospect of returning to jail since May, when she missed a court hearing in the DUI case and a judge revoked her probation. She was sentenced to jail twice and rehab twice last year alone, but her incarcerations have been shortened by jail overcrowding.

Schwartz did not talk in detail about a report he received from probation officials, but said he thought Lohan's release conditions should be modified if she is placed back on probation. He also said Lohan should receive psychological counseling and get a new sobriety sponsor to "to get your life back on track."

Lohan's father, Michael Lohan, agreed with the judge's assessment after the hearing, saying his divorce from his wife had created many of their daughter's problems.

Michael Lohan believes his daughter should fight the theft case.

"I don't see Lindsay as a criminal," he said. "This is all a result of her addiction."

Novelist Umberto Eco opposes boycotts of Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—Renowned Italian writer Umberto Eco said at an Israeli book fair Wednesday that boycotting scholars for their governments' policies is akin to racism.

It was his response to British writers who called on prominent British novelist Ian McEwan to reject an Israeli literary prize this week as a way of protesting Israel's treatment of the Palestinians.

McEwan, who wrote the celebrated 2001 novel "Atonement," accepted the Jerusalem Prize at the book fair's opening ceremony earlier this week but peppered his acceptance speech with tough criticism of Israeli policies toward Palestinians in the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

Eco told reporters that unlike McEwan, he faced no pressure from colleagues to stay away from the Israeli book fair, and he does not support boycotts.

"I consider it absolutely crazy" and "fundamentally racist to identify a scholar, a private citizen, with the politics of his government," Eco said.

Eco, 79, is the author of best-selling books including "The Name of the Rose" and "Foucault's Pendulum." He is one of Italy's most widely read novelists.

Eco has stirred controversy in the past. The Chief Rabbi of Rome criticized his latest book, "The Cemetery of Prague," a work of historical fiction about a 19th century document forger who writes the fake, anti-Semitic tract "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion." The Chief Rabbi said the book could ignite anti-Semitism among readers.

Whoopi: Lack of black Oscar nominees not a trend

NEW YORK (AP)—Whoopi Goldberg said Wednesday that the lack of black nominees in major categories of this year's Academy Awards doesn't reflect a trend in the film industry.

Speaking after hosting the opening of an exhibit of Oscar statues inside New York's Grand Central Terminal, Goldberg underscored that five black actors have won Academy Awards since 2002.

"I don't know how it gets better," she said after posing for pictures. "I think we're all right."

Goldberg recently said on her show "The View" that she was upset about an article in The New York Times citing the lack of black nominees this year because it didn't mention her supporting actress Oscar for 1990's "Ghost."

The Times said she misread the story and that it was not meant to be a comprehensive

list of all actors who had won Oscars. Goldberg later apologized for calling the reporting sloppy.

She tried to clarify her comments about the story Wednesday, saying it was inaccurate to think there's "something wrong" with the way blacks are represented at the Oscars. She said strides have been made since 1939 when Hattie McDaniel won for best supporting actress, becoming the first black awarded an Oscar.

"This idea that there's something wrong, something missing, seemed very inaccurate to me. And it was," she said. "And there are a lot of people in that small little world of black Oscar folks. And, yeah. If you're going to talk about it, then talk about it. Don't sort of talk around it. That was my point."

Palace keeps wedding gown secret—so far

LONDON (AP)—FashionWeek has come and gone, the carnival is moving on to Paris and Milan, and still there has been no clarity on the pressing issue of the day: Who, exactly, is designing Kate Middleton's wedding gown?

Some of the people who are not designing the dress stepped forward after their London catwalk shows to say so—including punk priestess Vivienne Westwood and Christopher Bailey of Burberry—but no one has come forward to say they are the one.

More surprisingly, perhaps, the word has not leaked out, even in the gossipy fashion world. A few hundred journalists, several dozen designers and legions of overdressed fashion types have just spent six days together drinking free buckets of

free champagne and icy vodka cocktails at various parties and receptions, but no one seems to have spilled the beans.

Bob Woodward and the brass at the Washington Post protected Deep Throat's identity for decades, but Buckingham Palace only has to protect this secret for another 70 days or so to allow Middleton to achieve her stated goal of surprising Prince William, and the rest of the world, when she walks down the aisle in her mystery gown.

She just might pull it off—if the chosen one can resist the natural impulse to boast a bit to his or her closest friend, with the whispered admonition not to tell a soul, a tactic that would likely lead to worldwide disclosure within days.

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Hall Pass

Friday	4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon thru Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Owen Wilson, Jason Sudeikis
Comedy • Rated R

I Am Number Four

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:25	

Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Unknown

Friday	4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:30	

Liam Neeson, Diane Kruger
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Big Momma's Like Father Like Son

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Mon thru Thurs	4:20	7:20	

Martin Lawrence, Brandon T. Jackson
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Gnomeo and Juliet

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Tuesday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:00	

James McAvoy, Emily Blunt
Musical, Children's/family • Rated G

Synopsis

Owen Wilson stars as a married man who is granted one week to live a bachelor's life, but runs into a moral snag when his wife heads out on her own single-life fantasy while off on vacation in this comedy from Bobby and Peter Farrelly (There's Something About Mary, Dumb and Dumber).

Synopsis

A teenage fugitive with an incredible secret races to stay one step ahead of the mysterious forces seeking to track and destroy him in this sci-fi action thriller from director D.J. Caruso (Disturbia, Eagle Eye). With three dead and one on the run, the race to find the elusive Number Four begins. Outwardly normal teen John Smith (Alex Pettyfer) never gets too comfortable in the same identity, and along with his guardian, Henri (Timothy Olyphant), he is constantly moving from town to town — the perpetual new kid in a series of strangely familiar schools.

Synopsis

A man (Liam Neeson) wakes up from a coma while on a business trip to Europe only to find that some other man has taken his identity and stepped into his life. Diane Kruger and January Jones co-star.

Just Go With It

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:10	

Jennifer Aniston, Adam Sandler
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Justin Bieber: Never Say Never

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Mon thru Thurs	4:05	7:05	

Justin Bieber
Musical • Rated G

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Anne Hathaway trains for Catwoman, preps for Oscar

LOS ANGELES (AP)—These days, Anne Hathaway is a busy woman. Or make that a busy Catwoman.

The 28-year-old actress is training for the physical demands of her lead role in “Catwoman” (and its sleek, physique-revealing catsuit) as she flexes her comedy muscles alongside James Franco as co-hosts of Sunday’s Academy Awards.

“There’s a lot going on, but it’s all really super-duper positive,” Hathaway said between fittings Wednesday. “I feel like I have a big fight coming up and everyone’s giving me the thumbs-up and the ‘you’ll-rock-it’ fist pump. I have unbelievable support.”

The Oscar team is helping Hathaway and Franco find their funniest material, she said, and the producers “are making it as easy as possible on me.”

“It’s all been kind of wonderful and jovial,” she said. “It turns out it takes a village to host the Oscars.”

Hathaway’s biggest challenge this week? Navigating the city’s famous freeways and making it to all her appointments on time. But she’s got that one covered: “Luckily my assistant is a really good driver!”



In this Nov. 29, 2010 file photo, Anne Hathaway attends the 20th anniversary of The Gotham Independent Film awards in New York.

MTV to debut ‘O’ Music Awards, with the ‘O’ TBD

NEW YORK (AP)—MTV is naming its new digital music awards the OMAs—and leaving the “O” up for grabs.

The network is to announce Thursday that the O Music Awards will take place April 28. MTV is leaving the “O” undefined and open to interpretation from viewers.

The awards, the network said, “honor the migration of music to the digital space, and celebrate

the art, artistry and technology of digital music.” MTV plans to present an untraditional, heavily interactive award show, spread out across multiple screens, including the Internet, social media and mobile.

MTV hopes the show will do for digital music what its Video Music Awards, launched in 1984, did for the music video.

“We think this space now needs an award show,” said Dermot Mc-

Cormack, head of MTV Music Group digital. “We think we’re fairly well qualified to come up with a way of rewarding achievement in these new categories.”

MTV, which is part of the Viacom-owned MTV Networks, will later announce a “hub” for the event and categories. Categories could include things like best app and best Kanye West tweet. Social media buzz will play a role in choosing the winners.

Mamma Mia! Actors appear with amped-up brides

NEW YORK (AP)—You’ve heard the old warning about waving red in front of a bull.

A department store eagerly waved white in front of hundreds of amped-up brides-to-be on Friday in a chaotic tradition known as the “Running of the Brides.”

“It was crazy,” said successful competitor Lauren Grace of Woodbridge, N.J.

Cast members from the Broadway show “Mamma Mia!” were even on hand for the noisy Manhattan event, which was punctuated by cheers when brides nailed their prey.

Organizers said dresses originally priced up to \$10,000 were going for \$249 to \$699.

Grace was among the victors. “I got a bargain. It was \$499, originally \$3,000,” she said.

She said she and her shopping team had stayed overnight at a hotel. They arrived outside the store at 4 a.m. and waited four hours before they were allowed to pounce on the deeply discounted dresses at the Filene’s Basement/SYMS event.

It was a bittersweet moment for Grace. She shed some tears while thinking of her late mother, but then regained her good spirits while leading the charge along with her bridesmaid, maid of honor, friend and aunt.

They’d worked out a system in advance: two of them ran in and grabbed a spot, three others hoarded dresses and they all carried yellow balloons—Grace’s wedding color—to locate each other in the chaos.

Grace tried on dresses over her shorts and tank top. “I was a little more modest than some people, to say the least,” she said. “Some people were down to their undergarments,” right there in the aisles.

She’s hoping to prevent her groom from learning too much about the gown; she wants him to be surprised during their big moment on April 28, 2012.

Elizabeth Taylor said to be in good spirits

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A spokeswoman says Elizabeth Taylor’s doctors continue to be encouraged by her progress as she remains hospitalized in Los Angeles.

Publicist Jamie Cadwell says the 78-year-old actress will stay in the hospital for now so doctors can continue to observe her.

Cadwell said Wednesday that the Oscar-winning actress is in good spirits and continues to feel stronger every day.

Taylor has been hospitalized at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center since early this month.

She is being treated for symptoms of congestive heart failure, a condition she disclosed in November 2004.

Pregnant teen needs worried friend’s support, not a lecture

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEARABBY: I’m concerned about my friend “Nyla.” She’s 15 and pregnant. Nyla and her family are happy about it! As her friend, I’m not. I think she should have waited.

I keep telling her that her life is ruined and she’ll regret having a baby this early, but she doesn’t listen. It would be better if she had help, but she doesn’t. Nyla’s family is poor.

Now she is angry with me because of what I keep telling her. What can I do to help her understand me, and not get mad when I tell her something?

VIRGINIA TEEN

DEAR VIRGINIA TEEN: If you want Nyla to “understand” you, quit lecturing her because it’s only making her defensive. Defensive people don’t listen. How many family, rich or poor, could be “happy” about the pregnancy of an unwed 15-year-old is beyond me. But your friend IS pregnant and she’s keeping the baby.

So be a real friend and encourage her to finish high school so she can prepare herself for a job that will enable her to support her little one. If she completes her education, the chances are better that her child will, too. But if she doesn’t, the reverse is also true, and the repercussions will go on for another generation.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I need help. When we started dating, my (now) husband told me he didn’t care about past relationships because “the past is the past and it’s over.” Now he has begun grilling me about every boyfriend I’ve ever had, demanding details about every aspect of the relationships, physical, emotional—whatever.

He makes snide remarks and asks if I would like him to track them down and if I’d like to sleep with them again. At first, I thought he was joking, but it has escalated to text messages and threats of divorce if I don’t tell him everything he wants to know. I have been sick to my stomach the last few days, and I think this fits the definition of emotional abuse. I don’t know whether to suggest counseling or just tell him to go.

He was wonderful when we first got together, but now he says marrying me was just a ruse to get sex. What can I do? I miss the person he used to be. He has always seemed concerned that I would eventually cheat on him, although I have given him no reason to think so and have assured him repeatedly that I want only him. Why is this happening?

SICK TO MY STOMACH IN OHIO

DEAR SICK TO YOUR STOMACH: It’s because you didn’t really know the man you married. The way he presented himself was, in his words, “all a ruse” to convince you to marry him “to get sex.” He appears to have increasing anxiety about how he measures up to your past lovers.

Harassing you for details and threatening to contact them is, frankly, sick behavior. He needs counseling, and unless he seeks it immediately you should get out of there. If you stay, the emotional abuse could escalate to physical abuse. To ensure your safety, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline (800) 799-7233 and discuss this with a trained counselor.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Barbados lifts ban on ‘Black Swan’ after outcry

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP)—A censorship board has reversed a decision to ban theaters in Barbados from showing “Black Swan” because of its sexual and violent content. The Cinematograph Film Censorship Board reviewed its decision after a theater filed an appeal. The board announced Wednesday the movie would be shown under an “R” rating. Hundreds of people signed an online petition asking the Caribbean nation’s board to reverse its decision. Hundreds more joined a Facebook page titled “For Freedom of Thought and Expression in Barbados.” The psychosexual thriller is nominated for a best picture Oscar.

Artist sues Kevin Costner to force sculpture sale

DEADWOOD, S.D. (AP)—An artist who created a bronze sculpture for Kevin Costner is suing the actor to force him to sell the work of art. Peggy Detmers says she spent more than six years creating the sculpture of 14 bison and three American Indian hunters for a resort Costner had planned to open in South Dakota’s Black Hills. The Rapid City Journal says Detmers values the sculpture at \$2.2 million. Costner says he still wants to build the resort he planned 20 years ago. Meanwhile, he spent \$6 million to build a visitors’ center and create a display site for the sculpture. Detmers says she wasn’t properly consulted in that project. Costner filmed much of his Academy Award-winning movie “Dances with Wolves” in South Dakota and later bought a casino there.

Deputy who arrested Gibson can proceed with suit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles County sheriff’s deputy who arrested Mel Gibson can proceed with a lawsuit claiming he suffered discrimination, retaliation and harassment. A judge on Tuesday said Deputy James Mee can go forward with his complaint against the sheriff’s department. Mee arrested Gibson on suspicion of drunken driving in 2006 in Malibu. During the arrest, the Oscar-winning actor made anti-Semitic slurs to Mee, who’s Jewish. Mee’s lawsuit claims his superiors forced him to rewrite his initial report to remove references to the rant. However, some details were later leaked to the press. Mee was investigated as the possible source but never charged. His suit claims that he was transferred after Gibson’s arrest and hasn’t been promoted. The sheriff’s department has denied the allegations.

Larry King pays a guest visit to CNN home

NEW YORK (AP)—Larry King thinks his successor, Piers Morgan, laid on the hype a little too thick before debuting last month. King returned to CNN on Monday as the interview subject of his successor. It happened just two months after King’s 25-year career on CNN’s prime time ended. While Morgan declared King his hero, the two had an awkward exchange when discussing a recent interview in which King said Morgan had oversold the new show. Morgan said he liked overselling himself. The new host said that “it’s quite funny.” Morgan ended the interview by presenting King with a pair of suspenders emblazoned by the British Union Jack.

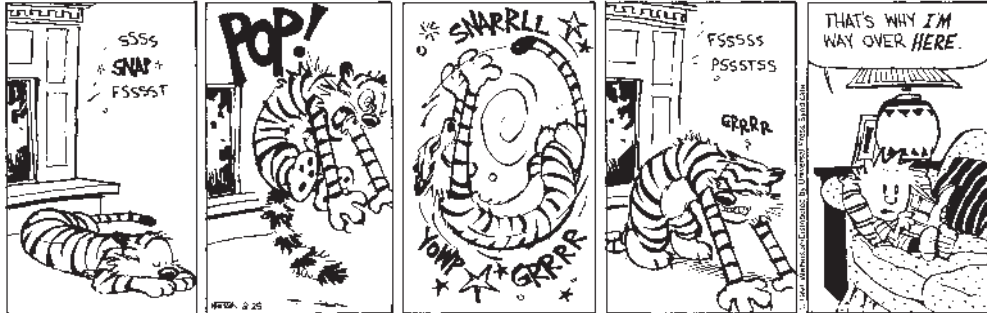
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

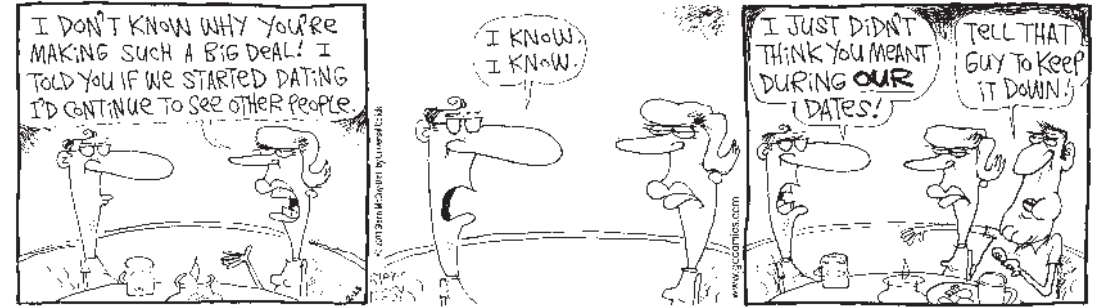
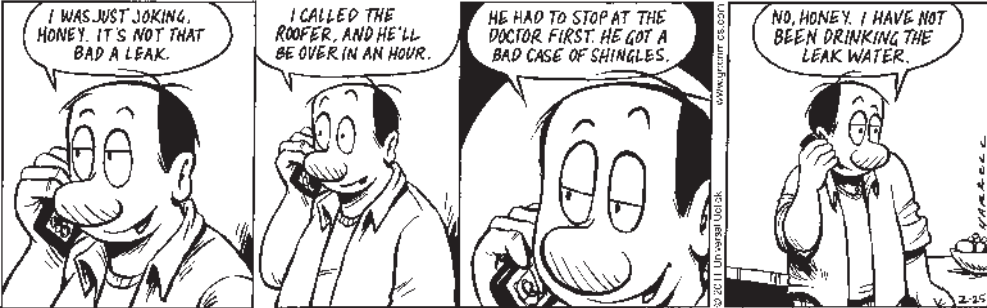


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 A to Z
6 Vitamin stat
9 Foolish one
12 Marble type
13 Chic no more
14 Pi follower
15 Water softener
16 Level of achievement
18 Vegas wedding site
20 Angel's prop
21 Brewery product
23 — Lanka
24 Soft and smooth
25 Pod dwellers
27 Bury
29 Map-Quest offerings
31 "Planet of the Apes" star
35 Stallone role

DOWN

1 Talk on and on
17 Desire for a drink

Solution time: 25 mins.

D	I	S	C	H	A	A	F	A	R
I	N	T	O	O	U	R	B	I	L
S	C	A	R	M	E	T	A	S	I
H	A	N	S	O	M	Y	A	C	H
E	K	E	C	A	B				
D	E	B	T	D	U	S	T	B	O
A	G	O	I	L	K	W	O		
B	O	W	L	G	A	M	E	F	L
C	O	O	P	U	P	E	N	L	I
R	S	V	P	A	F	T	D	O	T
A	L	E	E	C	O	O	E	W	E
W	O	R	D	K	E	N	R	A	P

Yesterday's answer 2-25

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Justin Berfeld, 25; Chelsea Handler, 36; Sean Astin, 40; Tea Leoni, 45

Happy Birthday: Proceed with caution. Do not act on impulse or hearsay. Creating opportunities by incorporating old ideas with new ones will turn out well and bring you long overdue recognition. Your no-nonsense way of explaining how you want things done will make a difference when it comes to your success. Your numbers are 3, 13, 16, 24, 35, 41, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your secrets locked up tight. Being too open about personal matters will lead to rumors that can hurt your reputation. Instead, put the emphasis on others, showing interest in whatever pursuits they are tackling. An opportunity will arise. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A sudden and unexpected turn of events will ignite your personal and romantic lives. Be ready to follow through so you don't miss out on what's being offered. Your knowledge and offer of time and services will put you in the limelight. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This is no time to take chances with your reputation. Expect emotional matters to lead to a confrontation if you have taken matters into your own hands without sufficient knowledge or understanding. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can go two ways today: the know-it-all way or the interest-in-learning-more scenario. It's your future and the choice you make will

influence your personal and professional status. Keep things simple. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be in a partying mood but, even so, you must avoid overindulgence. Your best bet is to do something that improves or updates your lifestyle, looks or knowledge. Different cultural traditions and ways of doing things will help you make the right choice. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be drawn to unusual people who can offer you an insightful view into people, activities and skills that are foreign to you. What you learn from others will lead to an interesting union or partnership that can turn into a profitable enterprise. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Watch your back. Not everyone is on your side. Don't overreact or you will be open for criticism. Keep your thoughts to yourself and keep close tabs on what so-called friends and acquaintances are doing and saying. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can work from home and accomplish personal and professional goals. Your ability to see what needs to be done and to follow through will bring about a new set of rules to live by. A celebration will enhance your love life and your attitude. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Trouble on the home front will escalate if you don't do some damage control. Be upfront and honest and, although not everyone you deal with will agree with you, at least you will know where you stand and what you need to do next. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Remembering dreams, hopes and wishes from your youth will help you make some decisions about your future. You can make personal changes both physically and with the company you keep, leading to more entertaining and profitable endeavors. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you haven't been working at a job you enjoy, it's time to look at what's available that allows you to utilize your skills and is more meaningful to you. Talk to someone you trust to guide you in the most suitable direction. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let your emotions interfere with what needs to be done or said. If you take what's going on personally, you will not stand a chance of getting what you want. Be open-minded and adaptable. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are eager to follow your own path and to achieve the goals you set for yourself. You are sentimental and aggressive.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	6		4						
			7		6		8		2
		9						3	
				6		1			5
	4							8	
3				5		9			
	2							7	
1		6			9		5		
					3			9	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	8	9	4	6	2	5	1	7
7	6	2	8	5	1	4	3	9
4	5	1	3	7	9	2	6	8
5	1	4	6	9	3	7	8	2
2	7	3	1	8	5	6	9	4
8	9	6	2	4	7	1	5	3
1	3	7	5	2	8	9	4	6
9	4	5	7	3	6	8	2	1
6	2	8	9	1	4	3	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

2/24

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'BLACK SWAN'

Solution: 9 letters

B	F	T	A	K	U	N	I	S	E	C	A	R	G	R
W	A	R	N	N	I	N	A	K	C	A	S	S	E	L
I	G	L	I	E	E	L	A	C	I	R	E	C	A	O
C	N	Q	L	E	C	L	E	T	P	N	N	R	D	L
K	U	D	A	E	N	N	I	A	I	A	O	E	E	O
E	O	R	G	A	R	D	I	D	D	M	T	R	M	S
D	Y	E	W	A	L	I	S	V	O	T	E	Y	U	A
S	E	S	O	L	N	E	N	H	E	R	T	T	S	Y
Y	K	S	F	O	N	O	R	A	I	O	E	N	N	E
M	A	H	A	R	B	A	N	O	O	P	P	I	O	R
E	R	T	R	A	L	I	M	I	Y	E	M	C	C	S
L	E	I	L	A	T	A	N	L	W	N	O	A	H	T
O	A	L	Y	A	L	D	I	V	A	D	C	M	T	E
R	E	D	Y	R	S	L	O	A	N	L	I	F	E	I
T	H	O	M	A	S	S	E	C	N	I	R	P	B	N

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Abraham, Aronofsky, Ballerina, Ballet, Beth, Cassel, Compete, Consumed, Dancer, David, Dress, Erica, Friendship, Galina, Grace, Kunis, Lead, Leroy, Life, Lily, Loses, MacIntyre, Mila, Moral, Natalie, Nina, Odette, Odile, Open, Portman, Princess, Role, Ryder, Sayers, Sloan, Solo, Stein, Swan Lake, Thomas, Time, Unique, Vincent, Wicked, Winona, Young

Yesterday's Answer: Facebook
The NEW! Tuesday Puzzle codes: 7x10 grid (check crossword for 50-250) (check 10x10 grid for 100-250) (check 15x15 grid for 150-250) (check 20x20 grid for 200-250) (check 25x25 grid for 250-250) (check 30x30 grid for 300-250) (check 35x35 grid for 350-250) (check 40x40 grid for 400-250) (check 45x45 grid for 450-250) (check 50x50 grid for 500-250) (check 55x55 grid for 550-250) (check 60x60 grid for 600-250) (check 65x65 grid for 650-250) (check 70x70 grid for 700-250) (check 75x75 grid for 750-250) (check 80x80 grid for 800-250) (check 85x85 grid for 850-250) (check 90x90 grid for 900-250) (check 95x95 grid for 950-250) (check 100x100 grid for 1000-250)

STUMPED?

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Knicks beat Bucks in Anthony's debut



NEW YORK (AP)—Carmelo Anthony had 27 points and 10 rebounds, hitting a pair of vital baskets in front of a crowd that cheered his every move as New York beat the Milwaukee Bucks 114-108 on Wednesday in his Knicks debut.

Anthony made only 10 of 25 shots but was at his best in the closing minutes, helping New York hold on after fellow superstar Amare Stoudemire fouled out. He matched the third-highest scoring game in a Knicks debut since 1964, just two points shy of Keith Van Horn's 29 on Oct. 29, 2003.

Chauncey Billups, who came with Anthony from Denver in Tuesday's blockbuster trade, finished with 21 points and eight assists as the Knicks won their third straight. Toney Douglas scored 23 points and Stoudemire had 19.

John Salmons scored 27 points for the Bucks.

Mavericks 118, Jazz 99

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 23 points as Dallas cruised past Utah, a few hours after the Jazz traded away leading scorer Deron Williams to New Jersey.

Peja Stojakovic hit four 3-pointers and scored 18 points, and Shawn Marion contributed 16 points for the Mavericks, who had seven double-figure scorers in their fourth straight victory. Dallas has won 14 of its last 15 overall.

Al Jefferson scored 30 points, Paul Millsap had 18 and Andrei Kirilenko 17 for the Jazz, who have lost five straight.

Spurs 109, Thunder 105

At San Antonio, Tony Parker scored the last of his 20 points with a 16-footer with 26.1 seconds left, and Gary Neal added 19 points to lead San Antonio to the victory.

The Spurs improved to 47-10, moving within three wins of their total from last season.

Kevin Durant led the Thunder with 30 points, and Russell Westbrook had 25.

Kings 111, Magic 105

At Orlando, Florida, Jermaine Taylor had 21 points and Beno Udrih added 18 as Sacramento snapped a five-game losing streak against Orlando.

Samuel Dalembert and Jason Thompson had 17 points apiece for Sacramento, which won for just the third time in its last 11 games.

Dwight Howard had 31 points and 17 rebounds for Orlando. Hedo Turkoglu added 19 and Jameer Nelson 15.

Suns 105, Hawks 97

At Phoenix, Channing Frye scored six of his 20 points in the final four minutes as Phoenix pulled away from the short-handed Atlanta.

Jared Dudley went 4 for 5 from 3-point range and finished with 17 points for Phoenix. Steve Nash scored all 13 of his points in the second half and had 10 assists.

Josh Smith scored 26 for the Hawks. Jamal Crawford had 19 points and Al Horford added 17.

Hornets 98, Clippers 87

At New Orleans, Chris Paul had 19 points and 10 assists to lead New Orleans to the victory.

David West scored 22 for the Hornets, who were able to overcome Blake Griffin and control the inside, even with center Emeka Okafor missing his 10th straight game with a strained left hip.

Willie Green scored 17 points for



New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony (7) shoots over Milwaukee Bucks' Andrew Bogut (6) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2011, in New York.

NBA BRIEFS

Hawks acquire Kirk Hinrich for playoff run

ATLANTA (AP)—The struggling Atlanta Hawks acquired guard Kirk Hinrich from Washington in a five-player trade Wednesday, upgrading their backcourt for the playoff run. The Hawks also received forward Hilton Armstrong in exchange for guard Mike Bibby, rookie guard Jordan Crawford, swingman Maurice Evans and a first-round pick in this year's draft. The Hawks had lost four out of five games and slipped to fifth in the top-heavy Eastern Conference, while the sixth-place New York Knicks—who began the night five games behind Atlanta—made one of biggest splashes ahead of Thursday's trade deadline by acquiring Denver star Carmelo Anthony. The 32-year-old Bibby had lost a step defensively and was no longer the creative force he was in his younger days. Hawks coach Larry Drew had hoped second-year player Jeff Teague would take on a larger role at the point, but he was averaging less than 12 minutes a game.

Warriors, Nets make trade for Murphy, draft pick

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—First came a trade for Deron Williams. Then came a little bench boost and some salary cap space for comfort. Hours after completing a blockbuster deal that landed All-Star point guard Deron Williams, the New Jersey Nets bolstered their bench with two backup big men while sending Troy Murphy and a 2012 second-round draft pick to the Golden State Warriors on Wednesday night. The Nets acquired the expiring contracts of Brandan Wright and Dan Gadzuric, whose deals are worth about \$11 million combined this year, close to the same for Murphy. The Warriors are expected to buy out Murphy's contract if they can't move him in another deal before Thursday's NBA trade deadline. "We are very pleased to add Dan and Brandan to our roster," Nets general manager Billy King said. "Dan is an NBA veteran who will add depth to our frontcourt rotation, while Brandan is a young player who we feel has significant room to grow and develop in our system."

and 10 rebounds as Philadelphia improved downed Washington.

Elton Brand and Evan Turner added 15 points apiece for the Sixers (28-29), who eclipsed last season's win total of 27. Marreese Speights had 14, Jodie Meeks finished with 12 and

Andre Iguodala 10.

John Wall had 21 points and 12 assists for Washington (15-41), while Trevor Booker

tied his career high with 21 points.

Raptors 118, Bulls 113

At Toronto, Andrea Bargnani and DeMar DeRozan each scored 24 points, and Jose Calderon had 17 assists as Toronto beat Chicago to spoil Joakim Noah's return from thumb surgery.

Derrick Rose scored 19 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter and had 10 assists, and Carlos Boozer had 24 for the Bulls, who had won 10 of their previous 12.

Amir Johnson scored 17 points, Leandro Barbosa had 13 and Sonny Weems 12 as the Raptors beat the Bulls for the first time in three meetings.

Pacers 102, Pistons 101

At Indianapolis, Brandon Rush's dunk with 5.4 seconds remaining gave the surging Indiana Pacers the victory over Detroit.

Tyler Hansbrough scored 21 points for Indiana, which squandered a 16-point second-half lead before a dramatic, back-and-forth final sequence.

With 11.1 seconds remaining, Austin Daye's 17-footer gave the Pistons their first lead since the first quarter. But on the ensuing possession, Danny Granger drew a double-team and found Rush for a dunk in traffic in the lane.

Greg Monroe scored 27 points for the Pistons, who lost for the 10th time in 14 games.

Rockets 124, Cavaliers 119

At Cleveland, reserve Chase Budinger scored a career-high 30 points, including 11 straight in the fourth quarter, and Kevin Martin added 30 more to lead Houston over Cleveland.

The Cavaliers were led by Antawn Jamison's 26 points. Ramon Sessions added 20 and 12 assists for Cleveland.

Chuck Hayes had 17 rebounds for the Rockets.

Grizzlies 104, Timberwolves 95

At Minneapolis, Zach Randolph had 24 points and 10 rebounds while Mike Conley added 22 points to help Memphis beat Minnesota.

Tony Allen and Sam Young each scored 16 points for the Grizzlies.

Minnesota's Kevin Love recorded his 44th double-double in a row with 15 points and 11 rebounds. Love, an All-Star selection, now has equaled Moses Malone's streak of consecutive double-doubles for Philadelphia in 1982-83.

Wayne Ellington added 16 points for Minnesota while Luke Ridnour finished with 15.

Lakers 106, Trail Blazers 101, OT

At Portland, Oregon, Kobe Bryant had 37 points as the Los Angeles Lakers overcame a 10-point deficit late in the fourth quarter to beat Portland.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 29 points and 14 rebounds for the Blazers, but didn't hit a shot in the fourth quarter and missed two key free throws in the extra period.

Lamar Odom and Ron Artest each hit a 3-pointer to help Los Angeles to a 95-92 lead in overtime. Rudy Fernandez responded with a tying 3 and Andre Miller's jumper gave the Blazers the lead, but Pau Gasol hit a turnaround hook shot and added a free throw before Bryant's jumper with 27.9 seconds left gave Los Angeles a 100-97 advantage.

Gasol fouled Aldridge, who missed both free throws to all but seal it for the Lakers.

Nets acquire Williams in trade

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The New Jersey Nets finally landed a big-name All-Star in a blockbuster trade that gives them point guard Deron Williams and sends rookie Derrick Favors and point guard Devin Harris to the Utah Jazz.

The Jazz also will receive the Nets' first-round pick in 2011, which could be a lottery pick, along with cash and Golden State's 2012 first-round draft pick.

"I feel Deron Williams is the best point guard in the NBA," Nets general manager Billy King said in announcing the deal Wednesday. "I spoke with Deron and he's excited about it. He understands where we are and where we want to go. In this league, you win with point guards."

The Nets hope Williams will sign a contract extension, which they can offer this summer. If so, he would become the face of their franchise when they move to Brooklyn in 2012.

"Everything happens for a reason. I take everything in stride," Williams told the Jazz team broadcasters from his hotel room in Dallas. "I had a great five-and-a-half years in Salt Lake. The fans have always been great for me. I'm going to miss them."

The 6-foot-3 Williams was selected third overall in 2005 out of Illinois, and he's averaged 17.3 points, 9.1 assists and 3.2 rebounds for the Jazz. Williams has been even better in 44 postseason games, with averages of 21.1 points, 9.6 assists and 1.2 steals.

The deal came two days after the Nets failed to land Carmelo Anthony, who was acquired by the New York Knicks as part of a blockbuster deal with the Denver Nuggets.

Jazz CEO Greg Miller said he made the move because of a "gut feeling" that he wouldn't be able to sign Williams to a long-term deal after next season.

"If you look at what happened with Phoenix, Toronto and Cleveland ... they all lost their marquee player and had very little if anything to show for it," Miller said. "This trade allows us to be competitive now and beyond the 2012 season."

Asked how he would be able to market a team in Salt Lake City without a star, Miller said with "classic Jazz basketball."

"It's lunchpail, work boots," he said. "And who knows? We may have a star player before any of us realizes it."

Harris, a former All-Star point guard, and Favors, the No. 3 pick in the draft, were part of the package the Nets had been offering the Nuggets for Anthony.

Cardinals' 20-game winner Wainwright injures elbow

By R.B. FALLSTROM
AP SPORTS WRITER



St. Louis Cardinals ace Adam Wainwright is getting a second opinion on his injured right elbow, which the team fears will require reconstructive surgery.

Team spokesman Brian Bartow said Wednesday night that results of MRIs and other tests were being examined by Dr. Lewis Yocum in Los Angeles. The team anticipated a news conference Thursday afternoon to disclose findings.

Wainwright, a 20-game winner and runner-up for the NL Cy Young Award last year, was sent back to St. Louis on Wednesday for tests and consultation with team physician George Paletta. Earlier in the day, general manager John Mozeliak said "things do not look encouraging" for the right-hander, who injured his elbow while throwing batting practice Monday.

Mozeliak stopped short of saying Wainwright would need season-ending Tommy John surgery.

"I don't want to speculate, but obviously ligament damage, that's usually what it results in," he said.

Bartow said Mozeliak remained pessimistic after the decision to seek a second opinion.

The 29-year-old Wainwright began feeling soreness Monday. Trainers examined him Tuesday and Wainwright flew back to St. Louis to meet with team doctors on Wednesday.

"It appears to not be good," manager Tony La Russa said. "We'll see, though."

The news comes one day after the Cardinals learned utility infielder Nick Punto will miss eight to 12 weeks because of a sports hernia that will require surgery.

Wainwright's injury is much more significant. Losing him would leave a big hole in what looked to be a stable starting ro-

Rangers' Young to attend to family matters

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP)—Michael Young is leaving the Texas Rangers—for a couple of days, anyway.

The team said Wednesday that the veteran infielder will leave spring training camp to attend to unspecified "family matters." He is scheduled to return to camp with the AL champions on Saturday.

"He's got a family thing

he's got to attend to," manager Ron Washington said. "He's ready to go. He'll take care of that, come back and play some baseball."

Young, who practiced Wednesday morning, wouldn't discuss details with reporters, saying only: "Everything's great."

Young requested a trade last month after the team

signed Adrian Beltre to a six-year, \$96 million free-agent contract. The team did not make any deals and he reported to camp on time, saying he was focused on the upcoming season.

Young is the longest-tenured Ranger, going into his 11th season, as well as the team's career hits leader and a six-time All-Star (five times at

shortstop, once at third).

He moved to shortstop before the 2004 season after Alex Rodriguez was traded, then was switched to third base two years ago when the Rangers decided to promote Elvis Andrus from the minors.

He is now expected to be the team's primary designated hitter and utility infielder with Beltre taking over at third.



In this Feb. 16, 2011 file photo, St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Adam Wainwright throws during spring training baseball in Jupiter, Fla.

tation heading into camp. Chris Carpenter, Kyle Lohse, Jaime Garcia and Jake Westbrook have all had arm surgery during their careers.

There are few pitchers available on the free-agent market, with Kevin Millwood probably the best known.

"It's going to be tough to replace a guy who wins 20 games, but you never know," first base-

man Albert Pujols said. "One of these young kids could step up like Jaime did last year."

The 6-foot-7 Wainwright went 20-11 with a 2.42 ERA last season, finishing behind Philadelphia's Roy Halladay in Cy Young balloting while making his first All-Star team. His 2.93 ERA since 2007 trails only Halladay, and no NL pitcher threw more than Wainwright's

463 1-3 innings during the past two seasons.

La Russa said he doesn't believe the injury is related to the soreness Wainwright felt toward the end of last season, when he didn't pitch in September. He said it's more likely related to minor issues Wainwright had in 1998 and 2004.

"It was so strange because he had a great throw his first time

out," La Russa said.

In 2009, Wainwright led the NL in wins (19), innings (233) and starts (34), winning a Gold Glove while finishing third in Cy Young voting.

Should Wainwright be lost for significant time, La Russa expects to find his replacement at camp from a group that includes Lance Lynn, P. J. Walters, Ian Snell and reliever

Kyle McClellan.

"You can't replace Adam," McClellan said. "Everybody is going to have to step up a little bit more. But we can't sit here and feel sorry about ourselves. I know everybody else we play isn't going to feel sorry for us."

La Russa doesn't expect the Cardinals to try to fill any void left by Wainwright through a trade or free agent signing.

"The answer is here," he said.

St. Louis is also likely to look internally for Punto's replacement, giving Ramon Vazquez, Daniel Descalso, Tyler Greene and Allen Craig some extra at-bats.

Punto was injured Saturday. A career .247 hitter, he batted .238 in 88 appearances last season with Minnesota. He hit a career-high .290 and scored 73 runs in 2006 with the Twins.

NL rivals expressed sadness as they learned of Wainwright's injury.

"Think the world of him, and arguably the last couple of years as good as there is in the league," Cubs general manager Jim Hendry said in Mesa, Ariz. "We've been on the other side of that, it's no fun. Competition-wise, you never want to see your opponents take a lesser step because of a serious injury, so hopefully he'll get better down the road and come back and be terrific."

Wainwright is 6-1 with a 2.61 ERA the past three seasons against Chicago and has won all five starts at Wrigley since the start of the 2008 season.

"That's a shame," Cubs manager Mike Quade said. "You want to win and compete and all the rest of it, but you don't like seeing anybody get hurt, that's for darn sure. I feel bad for him."

So did Cincinnati Reds manager Dusty Baker.

"I hate to see that," Baker said in Goodyear, Ariz. "Not only is he a good pitcher, but he seems like a fine young man. Every time I've seen him he was polite and respectful."

NFL, union will hold 7th consecutive day of talks



WASHINGTON (AP)—The NFL and the players' union wrapped up a sixth consecutive day of mediated talks Wednesday—and they will meet again Thursday.

NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith and most of his negotiating group—including four current players—left Wednesday's session at the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service a little after 5:30 p.m.

That was less than an hour after Smith and a dozen members of the union's team returned from a 1 1/2-hour break. It wasn't clear what, if any, signif-

icance the break holds, although it was the first time since the mediation began Friday that either side left the building en masse in the middle of a day. Generally, the groups have arrived in the morning and departed in the evening.

They've met for a total of more than 40 hours so far.

Smith and others in the union contingent declined to comment, abiding by mediator George Cohen's request that the sides stay silent. Nothing about what's been discussed has been revealed by either side.

"I just can't say anything. I'm afraid of Mr. Cohen," NFL lead negotiator Jeff Pash said when he left, about an hour af-

ter Smith did. "I'm going to just say, 'No comment.' See you tomorrow morning."

The current collective bargaining agreement expires at the end of the day March 3, and the voluntary mediation is seen as an attempt to spur progress.

NFLPA executive committee members Brian Dawkins of the Denver Broncos, Jeff Saturday of the Indianapolis Colts, and Mike Vrabel and Brian Waters of the Kansas City Chiefs participated Wednesday. Nine of that committee's 11 members have been present at some point during these six days of talks; union president Kevin Mawae and New Orleans Saints quar-

terback Drew Brees have not been seen entering or exiting the meetings.

On Thursday, the league will hold a meeting for general managers, coaches and other officials at the NFL's annual scouting combine in Indianapolis.

"It's a normal part of the combine, which is always filled with meetings galore," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press after ESPN.com first reported about the GMs-coaches session. "There was such a meeting last year. It's not the first time."

Still, given the state of labor negotiations, the NFL is expected to update attendees - although Commissioner Roger

Goodell and Pash would be in Washington, not Indianapolis, on Thursday.

There will be another development Thursday: A U.S. District Court judge in Minnesota will hold a hearing on the union's appeal of this month's ruling on its complaint about the league's TV contracts. The union has accused the NFL of structuring TV contracts so owners would be guaranteed money even if there were a lockout in 2011—while not getting the most revenue possible in other seasons, when income would need to be shared with players.

After months of infrequent and sometimes contentious bargaining, the league and union have been communicating face-to-face since Friday.

The league and union went more than two months without any formal bargaining until Feb. 5, the day before the Super Bowl. The sides met again once the next week, then called off a second meeting that had been scheduled for the following day.

The most recent CBA was signed in 2006, but owners exercised an opt-out clause in 2008.

The biggest issue separating the sides is how to divide about \$9 billion in annual revenues. Among the other significant points in negotiations: a rookie wage scale; the owners' push to expand the regular season from 16 games to 18 while reducing the preseason by two games; and benefits for retired players.

Woods knocked out in first round by Bjorn



MARANA, Ariz. (AP)—One minute he looked like the Tiger Woods of old, burying a clutch birdie putt when he was down to his last shot.

One swing later, Woods looked lost in the desert.

With the pressure at a peak, Woods hit a 3-wood into a desert bush on the first extra hole Wednesday and was eliminated in the first round of the Match Play Championship by Thomas Bjorn.

"I blew it," Woods said.

When his 18-foot bogey putt rolled past the cup, Woods removed his cap and conceded the match to Bjorn, a longtime friend who qualified for this World Golf Championship by winning last month in Qatar. Bjorn held their handshake and spoke to Woods, who listened intently and appeared shaken.

"That's between me and Tiger," Bjorn said when asked about their conversation. "But what I will say is that the game of golf needs him back at his best. And I've always been a great friend of his, and we've always had a good relationship. And I want to see him back at his best because I think it's much more fun to go up against him when he's absolutely at his peak. And so it was things down that line."

Woods clearly isn't at his best at the moment.

In three tournaments this year, he has failed to crack the top 20. This was only the second time that Woods, the No. 3 seed, was beaten in the first round of the Accenture Match Play

Championship.

This might have been the most frustrating exit of all.

Twice he had simple chips on the back and failed to convert them into birdies, one of them at the par-5 13th that cost him the lead, the other at the par-4 15th that gave Bjorn the lead. With a chance to square the match, Woods missed a 10-foot birdie on the 17th hole that he said he should make "every time."

And then came No. 1, the first overtime hole.

"It's easy to put the ball in the fairway and I couldn't even do that," Woods said, so visibly upset that he was stumbling over his words.

The other top seeds didn't have that much trouble.

Top-ranked Lee Westwood never trailed in his 3-and-2 victory over Henrik Stenson, while PGA champion Martin Kaymer had the shortest match of the opening round, a 7-and-6 win over 19-year-old Seung-yul Noh of South Korea.

Phil Mickelson, the No. 4 seed who only decided to play this World Golf Championship two weeks ago, won 6-and-5 over Brendan Jones.

Still, Woods had some company in going home early.

The Americans had four of the top 10 seeds at Dove Mountain, and Mickelson is the only one left. Matteo Manas-

sero, the 17-year-old Italian, became the youngest winner in this tournament with a 2-and-1 victory over eighth-seeded Steve Stricker, while Jim Furyk (No. 10) continued his struggles in losing to Ryan Palmer, who was making his Match Play debut.

The wild first day finally ended with a record eight matches going into extra holes, and four others going the distance. Of the 32 players remaining, 13 are Americans, 13 are Europeans and two each are from Australia, South Africa and Asia.

Coming off the worst season of his career, most of that from the crisis in his personal life, Woods does not appear to be making quick progress.

Through three tournaments this year, he has failed to crack the top 20.

Woods keeps talking about needing more repetition as he works on a new swing, although he is not playing more tournaments. Asked if he might add the Honda Classic, Woods replied, "Probably now is not the time to ask me right now."

He next is likely to play the Cadillac Championship at Doral in two weeks, with Bay Hill two weeks after that. Another possibility is the Transitions Championship outside Tampa, Fla., which is the week between Doral and Bay Hill.

It was the second time Bjorn has beaten Woods head-to-head—al-

though not in this format—and both times Woods ended with a double bogey. Ten years ago, they played 72 holes together in the Dubai Desert Classic, and Woods hit into the water on the 18th hole.

Bjorn was gracious in victory, saying that Woods is not playing "his absolute best right now," although he still saw some good swings.

Others piled on.

When asked about the youth movement in golf, especially after Manasero won his match, Rory McIlroy said all the young players feel they are good enough to compete with the likes of Woods, Mickelson, Stricker and Furyk.

"I mean, I don't think Tiger and Phil have got any ... well, yeah, I mean I don't think Phil has gotten any worse," McIlroy said after his 4-and-2 win over Jonathan Byrd. "Tiger isn't as dominant as he used to be, and Phil won the Masters last year."

Then came a tweet from Hank Haney, the swing coach from whom Woods split a year ago in May.

"For all the talk of Tiger's poor driving the last 6 years I have never seen him drive it out of play with a match or tournament on the line," Haney said on Twitter.

Woods leaves behind a Match Play Championship that remains compelling because of the format alone. The first three matches showed that.

Ian Poulter became the first defending champion in nine years to be eliminated in the first round, despite having difficulty remembering any bad shots he hit. All he could recall was Stew-

art Cink making one big putt after another—seven of them from the 6-foot range or longer—to win in 19 holes.

Cink never led in the match until a 6-iron into 4 feet on No. 1, the first extra hole.

"This is a big win for my confidence because I don't know if there's a tougher player in the field in match play than Ian Poulter," Cink said. "It's a big win for me."

Poulter didn't make a single putt over 5 feet.

"He didn't miss a putt," Poulter said. "That's what you have to do. I did that last year. I didn't this year and got punished for it."

In the second match, former PGA champion Y.E. Yang went 20 holes to beat big-hitting Spaniard Alvaro Quiros. And right behind them came the most entertaining match of all when Ernie Els outlasted Jeff Overton in 19 holes.

Overton won the first three holes and they halved the fourth with a bogey. Els then ran off five straight holes and appeared to be sailing to a rare, opening-round victory when he let Overton back in the match. Before long, they wound up back on the first tee.

Els put his approach into the bunker, while Overton hit his under a bush in the desert and made double bogey.

"At least I won," Els said. "I have a 90 percent failure rate in extra holes. It was really ugly out there."

All that matters is that Els gets to return on Thursday, something 32 other guys wish they could say—Woods included.



Woods



Bjorn





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Cupid cage tourney starts tonight

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Nine teams have so far signed up for this weekend's Cupid Basketball Tournament at the Garapan Basketball Court.

» Cupid Fun Run set tomorrow

Weather permitting, the three-day tournament tips off tonight from 5pm until 9pm. Day 2 of the tourney continues tomorrow from 5pm to 8pm and the playoffs will conclude on Sunday, also from 5pm to 8pm.

The Cupid cage tourney will feature three age divisions: 12 and under, 14 and under, and 20 and under.

Trophies will be awarded to the champion and runner-up teams. Other prizes will also be handed out after the competi-

tion. The entrance fee to compete is set at \$100 per team.

Currently, the U20 division is made up of four teams: Like A G-6, Saints, Rollers Dynamics, and Rollers Young Guns.

The U14 division includes Rollers Dynamics, Rollers Young Guns, and G-Stars.

The U12 division features the Rollers Dynamics and Rollers Young Guns. Slots are still available in all divisions,

especially in 12U.

Meanwhile, over 100 are expected to participate in the Rollers Basketball Club's inaugural 5K Cupid Fun/Walk fundraiser at 7am tomorrow morning starting at the Civic Center.

Registration takes place at 6am and first 150 participants will receive a free Rocksteady T-shirt.

The trek will start at the Civic Center and continue north

along the Beach Road pathway ending at Garapan Basketball Court. Once at the finish participants will get a chance to compete in a variety of side games for prizes such as phones, gift certificates, and more.

There are four age divisions in the Cupid Fun Run: 13-and-under, 14-19, 20-29, and 30-and-over. Awards and prizes will be given to the Top 3 finishers of each division.

CLOSE

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the second. Patrick Aguon drove in Clayton Aguon and came home later off an error. Teammate Joe Borja also stole home before the Lions could escape.

After a quiet third frame, the Lions roared back to tie the game at 6-all in the bottom of the fourth. Arthur Jebehn led off and scored off an error.

Then Lemarc Iguel came up with a hit and later stole home. A hit later, Leroy Regis brought in Ricardo Dela Cruz before coming home off a walk with the bases loaded. Then Greg Iskawa belted a two-RBI single that brought in Russell Hocog and Roman Camacho.

The Hunters went 1-2-3 to start the fifth and the Lions took the lead, 7-6, in the bottom half off an RBI single by Regis. The Hunters were stuffed 1-2-3 again to start the sixth and the Lions added a run of a sacrifice fly by Jebehn.

Then the Hunters started their final stand at the top of the order, but it was sixth batter Robert Tudela who stepped up and busted the game-tying single.

Lions standout Ricardo Ddela Cruz led off the bottom of the seventh with a double and the next batter Regis hit him in soon after for the walk off victory. Dela Cruz batted 3-for-3 with an RBI, three runs, and a base on balls. Regis batted 3-for-4 with two RBIs and a run.

JUNIOR LEAGUE Lions 5, Jets 4

Last Saturday, the Saipan Shipping-Pacific Amusement Jets took an early 2-0 lead in the top of the first. C.J. Sebalim led off with a walk and scored off a wild pitch and Kyle Hocog scored K.J. Kalen with a sacrifice fly.

The Lions would later get a run back in the bottom of the second and then take the lead, 3-2, in the bottom of the fifth after a two-inning stalemate.

Justin Santos scored off an error and Jay Yobech jacked a single that scored Cedric Ada.

The Falcons reclaimed the lead 4-3 to start the sixth inning. Nathan Sablan walked home from third base after a balk and Loy Tudela brought home Jason Villagomez with a sacrifice fly.

The Lions were issued a free pass off a balk by the pitcher in the bottom frame to knot up the

game at 4-4.

The Jets came up empty to start the last inning and, while the Lions' Ada led off with a double and later stole home for the win. Ada batted 3-for-4 with two runs and one big stolen base.

Fielders 6, Red Sox 3

Last Sunday, Fielders struck first with an RBI single by Khobby Kaipat to gain an early 1-0 lead. The Bank of Saipan Red Sox came up empty in the bottom and the Fielders added a run to start the second off an error at third. The Sox got a run back in the bottom frame, but the Fielders jumped ahead 4-1 in the top of the third. Davin Ada doubled and scored off wild pitches, while his teammate came home off an error.

The Sox were stuffed in the bottom and the Fielders added a run in the top of the fourth.

The Fielders bats cooled off from that point, but its defense remained strong and contained the Sox to a just one run in each of the sixth and seventh innings.

Winning pitcher Keene Guerrero made it through his second complete game this season, giving up three runs (two earned), six hits and two walks with

eight strikeouts.

Ol'Aces 9, Falcons 6

Last Saturday, Ol'Aces' Jesse Brel led off the game with a walk and scored off a wild pitch to break the ice, but the Natibu Sports Association-Tanapag Falcons answered with three runs in the bottom frame. Falcons' A.J. Evangelista, Ian Norita, and Frankie Lieto all scored off errors. After just four batters the Aces made a pitching change and called Kenji Yamagata to the mound.

Both squads came up empty in the second and the Aces took the lead 5-3 in the top of the third. The first three runs came off errors before Danny Auther drove in Yamagata.

The Falcons failed to answer in the bottom and Ol'Aces added three more runs to start the fourth.

The Falcons managed to get one run back in the bottom and trimmed its deficit to 6-8 in the fifth off a big error at third.

Then after a quiet sixth, Ol'Aces added a run to start the seventh off an error and the Falcons left a man stranded at third in its final stand.

Survivors 9, Ol'Aces 7

After a scoreless first inning the

logged 12 points.

First Game

Mobil 93 – Estolas 25, Rabauliman 15, Gapor 12, Sharry 12, De Guzman 11, Basila 7, Artates 5, Tamayo 4, Factor 2.

NMC Proa 73 – Iguel 23, Lizama 16, Mendiola 9, Palacios 9, Libuw 8, Barcinas 6, Villacrusis 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-12, 36-all, 63-49, 93-73.

Second Game

Ol'Aces 73 – T. Diaz 19, Ogomoro 18, Tumaquip 13, Lisua 10, Pelisamen 6, Kenty 3, Z. Diaz 2.

Prospects 57 – Apelo 16, Moises 13, D. Aughenbaugh 10, Chariton 9, Lauron 6, Inos 3.

Scoring by quarters: 22-12, 42-30, 61-41, 73-57.

since it helps us with planning on how many shirts to have for the finishers," Mojica said.

Registration can be done online at www.saipansports.com or at the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose.

Meanwhile, Taga, Inc. would like to thank the following for supporting Saipan Sportsfest: MVA, IT&E, Pacific Islands Club, DFS Galleria, Docomo, Subway, Foremost, Glimpses of Guam, Coca Cola, Delta, and Triple J.

MOBIL

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again in the third period, as Estolas sizzled for 10 points to give his team a 62-49 lead.

In the fourth quarter, NMC tried to recover, connecting on two early triples. However, Estolas answered with two treys of his own and added 10 more points in the final canto to keep Mobil's double-digit lead. Estolas was held on only two field goals in the first half before exploding in the second half.

The Mobil guard finished with 25 points and drew a lot of offensive help from his teammates. Marvin Rabauliman contributed 15, Gil Gapor and Larry Sharry chipped in 12, and Jorge De Guz-

man tallied 11.

For NMC Proa, only Pete Iguel and Jack Lizama scored in double figures with the former nailing 23 and the latter logging 16. Lizama led Proa's comeback in the second quarter, but was neutralized in the third, making only two points. Then in the fourth period, the mobile big man scored only four points. The rest of Proa players struggled, offensively, and coach Rufino Aguon clearly missed the contribution of Dan Barcinas, who was a no-show on Wednesday night.

Ol'Aces 73, Prospects 57

In the second game, the Ol'Aces also cruised to an easy win over Prospects, 73-57.

The win improved the Ol'Aces' record to 4-3, while the defending

champion Prospects bowed out of the competition with a disappointing 0-8 record.

The Ol'Aces controlled the game right out of the gate, taking a 10-point lead in the first quarter, 22-12. Trevor Ogomoro led the Ol'Aces' good start, drilling 10 of his 18 points in the opening period.

Tony Diaz, who was held to only a free throw in the first period, took over in the second canto, tallying 10 points, as the Ol'Aces upped their lead to 12 at the half, 42-30.

Then in the third period, Diaz and Ogomoro joined forces in lifting the Ol'Aces to a 20-point advantage, 61-41. The big lead after the third canto was enough to give the Ol'Aces' leverage in the final quarter where they only

XTERRA

From Page 36

latter's lead in the bike race. The U.S. pro clocked in at 1:42:40 in the 32-km mountain bike leg against Dibens' 1:47:49. In the 12-km trail run, Vanlandingham was just slightly ahead of Dibens with her 51:20 against the latter's 51:33.

In last year's XTERRA Saipan Championship, Vanlandingham finished second

to six-time champion Renata Bucher of Switzerland after timing in at 3:07:04 against the latter's 2:58:19.

With Vanlandingham returning this year, the women's division championship will be a battle among six pros. Completing the list are XTERRA Saipan returnee Daz Parker, first-timers Carina Wasle and Suzy Snyder, and the CNMI's very own Mieko Carey.

The men's division will have two-time champion Sam Gard-

ner, Japanese pro Takahiro Ogasawara, and Chetwynd. Chetwynd had been to Saipan before, as he competed in the Tagaman Triathlon in 2007 and defeated Dirk Sharer in the 45 to 49.

At press time, 39 have already registered for XTERRA Saipan Championship and organizers are encouraging local triathletes to register early. Registration deadline for all events is set for March 9.

"It would be nice if more local athletes registered early

been to before.

Snyder has made a lot friends on Saipan including Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's Laurie Peterka, Chris Nelson, Ron Cramer, and Harry Blaylock, among many others. She says she enjoys playing the Pro-Am every year because she like meeting new people. Snyder will also be looking to improve on her sixth place finish last year.

For his part, Baxter is the most experienced veteran of the group, making his eighth appearance and vying for an unprecedented fourth Marianas Cup victory.

The 39-year-old stands 6'5" and went to school at Ball State University. He led his team to a third place finish in the 1994 NCAA tournament.

The 13-year pro also earned a silver medal in the 1994 Olympic festival. From 2003 to 2005 Baxter advanced to five final fours on the AVP Tour, no other player has made it to the semifinals with as many different partners.

Baxter says he keeps coming back to Saipan because he enjoyed all of his past visits and has made a lot of cherished friends over the years. Baxter will be looking to improve upon his sixth place finish last year.

In addition to Baxter, Snyder, Strickland, and Lewis, Japanese pros and last year's women's champions Megumi Murikami and Remi Sudo and 2010 women's runners-up Hiroyo Kaneda and Mitusmi Ozaki are all expected to compete this year along with men's division newcomers Kentaro Asahi and Katsuhiko Shiratori.

The Marianas Cup Pro-Am exhibition rounds start today at 6pm. Then pool play starts at 8am on Saturday and the Top 16 teams in both divisions advance to Sunday's 8am double-elimination playoffs, which will be immediately followed by the awards presentation. All games will be played beachside at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

Jones retains No. 1 ranking in U18

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Rafael Jones strengthened his hold to the top ranking in the boys U18 division after winning in last weekend's 2011 White Coconut Tennis Classic.

After three tournaments, the Saipan International School student has earned 2,500 ranking points. He got 750 points each for placing second in the DFS Micronesia Tennis Championship last season and in the 2011 Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.

The 16-year-old Jones is ahead of 750 points over long-time rival Christian

Miller, who topped the DFS tournament for 1,000, but only gained 750 points in the White Coconut Classic after losing to Jones. Miller failed to get points for the U18 division in the Tan Holdings Classic, as he opted to join the U15 draw of the annual tournament.

Tied for third in the U18 ranking are Clay McCullough-Stearns and Daniel

Natibu, Sakudi atop leaderboard

By **WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Natibu and Sakudi are leading their respective men's and women's divisions after conclusion of last Friday and Monday's 2nd Budweiser Chamolinian Slow-Pitch Softball League matchups at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Meanwhile, Phat Boyz, Man Amigos, and Your Balls all improved their win-loss records to 2-0. The rest of the division is made up of Island Apparel X-Clusive (2-0), V-Power (2-1), and Salty's (2-1).

Phat Boyz run-ruled Gorillaz, 15-3, and Man-Amigos lit up Braddahs 26-5 last Friday, while Your Balls torched Laolao Bay 23-1, on Monday. Red Eye notched its first win of the season, defeating Familia, 14-6, on Monday; Familia is still winless in three games.

In women's play, Sakudi bested Enamo Meta, 6-2, last Friday, and was awarded a win via forfeit by Check It Out last Monday.

Softball continues at the Capital Hill tonight at 6:30pm featuring Island Apparel and Salty's, followed at 7:30pm with women's play between T&C Clan (0-2) and NMC PROA (0-2) and a 8:30pm finale pairing featuring Natibu and G-Ballers (1-1).

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Sakudi 6, Enamo Meta 2

Enamo struck first with a run in the first inning. Nami Tadokoro scored off a fielder's choice.

After two scoreless innings, Sakudi took a 2-1 lead in the bottom of the fourth. Bert Camacho stole home and Thelma Mizer drove in Lillian Aguon. Enamo came up empty to start the fifth and Sakudi added a run in the bottom frame off another fielder's choice.

Then Sakudi stuffed Enamo again in the sixth inning and went on to build a 6-1 lead in the bottom frame. Three of Enamo's first four batters reached on hits, but only managed one run off a sacrifice fly before Sakudi secured the victory.

MEN'S DIVISION

Man Amigos 26, Braddahs 5

Braddahs managed five runs in the top of the first off an error and a pair of two-run blasts by John Iguel and Fonze Tarope, but from there its offense fizzed out like a dud.

Man Amigos shut them down for the rest of the contest and tied the game at 5-all after two frames.

Man Amigos' Julian Camacho then jacked a three-run homer in the bottom of the third inning and his teammates added two more to double-up Braddahs, 10-5, after four; Braddahs only managed two base runners in all three innings.

After a quiet fifth, Man Amigos si-

lenced Braddahs in the top of the sixth and added three runs in the bottom frame off a pair of doubles by Eric Palacios and Reno Celis. Trailing by eight to start the last inning, Braddahs went 1-2-3, while Man Amigos erupted with a 13-run finish. Man Amigos' Joey Dela Cruz hit two three-run bombs in the inning.

Phat Boys 15, Gorillaz 3

Gorillaz managed a run off an error in the top of the first inning, but Phat Boyz answered with six runs in the bottom of the half.

Kyle Kaipat and Dennis Cabrera each hit RBI singles, Craig Sanchez had a two-RBI knock, and the other runs came off an error and a fielder's choice.

Gorillaz ended up going 1-2-3 to start the next three frames.

Phat Boyz jumped ahead, 9-1, to start the second frame off an RBI double by Kyle Kaipat, followed by a two-run blast by Byron Kaipat.

Phat Boyz then added a run off a fielder's choice to end the third and two more in the fourth inning off an error and a sacrifice fly to go ahead, 12-3.



Phat Boys' Byron Kaipat hit a homerun and bagged three RBIs in last Friday's Chamolinian Slow-Pitch Softball League men's matchup against Gorillaz at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Gorillaz managed to muster a pair of runs to start the sixth, but Phat Boyz got the three runs it needed for the run-rule decision from Jun Kaipat's three-run bomb.

Red-Eye 14, Familia 6

Familia did the bulk of its damage in the first inning with four runs off an error and a three-run homer by Colin Reyes. Red Eye answered with a run in the bottom half and held Familia 1-2-3 to start the second.

Then Red Eye batted around and unloaded an eight-run assault on Familia off eight hits and two errors in the bottom frame; 10 of 12 Red Eye players touched base.

Familia scored its final two runs to start the third inning, but only managed three runners in its last four opportunities. Red Eye got a run back in the bottom frame and went ahead, 13-6,

in the bottom of the fourth off an error and a pair of RBI singles. Red Eye later added a run in the bottom of the sixth off another error and held for the win.

UR Balls 23, Laolao Bay 1

UR Balls took an early 5-0 lead in the first off a pair of RBI singles by Giavanni Ayuyu, a double by B.J. Babauta, a two-run homer by Oliver Secharmidal, and a solo-shot by Vincent Sablan Jr.

After a quiet second, UR Balls jumped ahead, 9-0, in the top of the third inning off a pair of RBI singles by Joe Lizama and Joshua Arriola, an RBI triple by Mike Taitano, and a solo homer by Ayuyu.

Laolao scored its sole run off an error in the top of the fourth inning and managed to keep UR Balls at bay in the bottom frame. However Laolao still came up empty to start the fifth inning, while UR Balls opened up a can in the form of 14 runs in the bottom frame. Ayuyu hit a grand slam in the inning to cap off a perfect 4-for-4 at the plate with seven RBIs; he also scored in every at bat and was a triple shy off the cycle.



Rafael Jones serves to Daniel Park during their U18 singles match in the 2011 White Coconut Classic at the AMP tennis courts.

Park, who collected 1,300 points apiece.

In the girls U18, Thecel Minor had overtaken younger sister Thea for the No. 1 spot. The older Minor had two runner-up finishes in the DFS and Tan Holdings tournaments for 1,500 points and added 1,000 for topping the Coconut Classic. Thea won both the Tan Holdings and DFS event, but missed the Coconut Classic, keeping her total to 2,000 points. Jodel Fernandez is at third with 1,350.

In the boys U15, Jake Lee grabbed the top spot from Chris Cajigan after prevailing in the Coconut Classic. Lee missed the DFS tournament and earned 500 points in the Tan Holdings to bring his total to 1,500. Cajigan dropped to second (1,450 total), as he only advanced to the quarterfinals in the Coconut Classic.

Mikayla Lopez is dominating the girls U15, winning the last three tournaments under the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association calendar and earning 3,000. Melody Johnson is at second (2,250) while Negahr Rastguiry is at third

spot (1,500 points).

Moris Villanueva leads the boys U12 with his 2,250 points. His closest pursuer, Colin Ramsey collected 1,550 points. In the girls U12, Carol Lee is still on top despite failing to advance to the finals. She tallied 500 points after a semis stint in the Coconut Classic, bringing her total to 2,500, as she got 1,000 each for winning in the DFS and Tan Holdings events. Emily Jones and Tammy Ackerman are in second and third place with 2,100 and 1,500 points, respectively.

In the U10 division, Luther Lizama now occupies the No. 1 spot with his 1,750 points, bumping off Michael Ren (1,000). Clayton Izuka moved up to second with 1,050 points, while Steven Goodwin remained at third, tying Ren. In the girls division, Julia Ishikawa and Tania Tan are tied for first with 1,500 points apiece.

The rankings will be used to select the CNMI's representatives to the 2011 North Pacific Qualifying Tournament this June.

Soriano, Cuento win in VFW Post 9-ball



Jerry Soriano and Chester Cuento topped the last two weeks of the VFW Post 3457 Open 9-Ball Tournament.

Soriano ruled last Saturday's event when he went unbeaten in the seven-team field. He was first pitted against Simon Kapileo and won and then beat Jimmy Wang in the next round to advance to the semifinals.

In the semifinals, Soriano edged Eugene Borja, who dropped to the loser's bracket where he faced Mike Sablan. Borja went on to prevail in the loser's bracket semis to earn a rematch against Soriano. However, Soriano reasserted his mastery over Borja to reign in the weekend tournament.

In the Feb. 12 edition of the 9-ball

event, Cuento bested seven other cue artists. He won his opening game against Jerry Ayuyu to challenge Soriano in the next round. Cuento won anew his second match to face Joe Reyes in the semifinals.

A win over Reyes moved Cuento

to the finals, while the loss forced the former to square off against Soriano in the loser's bracket. Reyes survived the playoff match over Soriano, but faltered against Cuento in the finals. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

RGA, SGA Feb. Ace at MCC



Both the Refaluwasch Golf Association and Saipan Golfers Association will have their February ace of the month tournaments at the Marianas Country Club this Sunday.

For RGA, show time for the event is at 11am, while tee time is at 12pm. The score to beat is the net 67 of Jun Piao. If no RGA member scores bet-

ter than 67, Piao gets to keep the February Ace.

SGA will have an earlier show time for its monthly tournament with its members advised to be at the venue at 9am. Tee time is at 10am.

Meanwhile, RGA is still open for membership. For more information, contact Jordan Kosam at 483-4506, Dwaine Stephens at 288-0005, or Joe Saures 483-5506. (PR)

Knicks beat Bucks
in Anthony's debut

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Jones retains
No. 1 ranking
in U18

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Baxter, Snyder back on Saipan for Pro-Am



From left, U.S. beach volleyball professionals Billy Strickland, Jennifer Snyder, Angela Lewis, and Paul Baxter surround NMIVA president Laurie Peterka after an interview held at the Chalan Kanoa Beach Hotel Wednesday.

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

AVP Tour veterans Paul Baxter and Jennifer Snyder are back on Saipan for this weekend's Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Pro-Am Tournament and have tagged along two other U.S. pros with them.

Joining the 39-year-old Baxter and 34-year-old Snyder are Billy Strickland and Angela Lewis.

A native of Malibu, California, Strickland is a newcomer to the Marianas Cup Pro-Am. The 30-year-old was the 2007 AVP Rookie of the Year and is this year's tallest participant at 6'9."

An avid surfer, Strickland played for Stanford University and won the Most Inspirational Player Award in 2003.

He also played a little basketball in high school and even some water polo in college. Strickland said he heard about

See BAXTER on Page 34



Vanlandingham returns for XTERRA Saipan



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Next month's XTERRA Saipan Championship will feature 2010 XTERRA World champion Shonny Vanlandingham.

Taga, Inc. president Wolf Mojica confirmed the return of Vanlandingham in an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, adding that the Colorado native is one of the two latest pros added to the field for the March 12 race. Joining Vanlandingham in the off-road race is Japan-based pro Paul Chetwynd.

Vanlandingham will be making her fourth trip on Saipan about five months after con-

quering XTERRA World and ending Julie Dibens' three-year reign in the Maui, Hawaii race.

The 41-year-old Vanlandingham completed XTERRA World in Maui in two hours, 58 minutes and 20 seconds, beating Dibens (2:59:33) by more than a minute. It was Vanlandingham's first win in six appearances in XTERRA World, as she only made it to the Top 10 in her first five stints in the annual race.

The mountain bike expert stunned Dibens in last year's XTERRA World despite falling behind by more than four minutes in the 1.5-kilometer swim leg against her rival from United Kingdom. Vanlandingham timed in at 24:20 in the swim leg against Dibens' 20:10, but the U.S. triathlete ate up the

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2010 XTERRA World champion Shonny Vanlandingham treks one of the trail bike courses in last year's XTERRA Saipan Championship.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mobil ends NMC's winning run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mobil finished the regular season of the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League in style, stunning the league-leading NMC Proa, 93-73, on Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Mobil completed the round robin elimination with a 6-2 record, while NMC Proa absorbed its first loss in the nine-team field and will play

its last game in the regular on Wednesday against IP&E Konflikt (5-1).

NMC Proa was sluggish against Mobil early in the game, trailing by as much as 14 in the first half, 28-14, before tying the match at the break, 36-all. However, Mobil stepped on the gas anew in the second half en route to the 20-point win over NMC.

Mobil began pulling away

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Mobil's John Artates, center, drives against NMC Proa's Jack Liza-ma, left, and Pete Iguel during their game in the UBA/Docomo caging on Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Close wins in Senior, Junior leagues

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Saipan Little League Junior Division as all four pairings went the distance with close results.

The Rep. Ramon S. Basa Kagman Lions, BTS-Martha's Fielders, IT&E Ol'Aces, and BTS-Tan Siu Lin-Rep. Fred DL Guerrero Survivors all came out with wins this past week.

In addition, the home team Tan Siu Lin-Rep. Fred DL Guer-

rero Kagman Lions rallied back over the St. Michael's Hunters, 9-8, in Senior Division play on Saturday as well. More Senior Division and Big League results will be released soon.

SENIOR DIVISION Lions 9, Hunters 8

Last Sunday, the visiting Hunters took an early 3-0 lead in the first inning with a pair of runs scored off a wild pitch and an error; Hunters' Palmerson Mongkeya later stole home.

The Lions remained quiet in the bottom frame and Hunters added three more runs to start

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